

THUNDER

READ IT...and you'll be THUNDER-STRUCK!

8d **3½**
NEW PENCE

FAMOUS FIRSTS

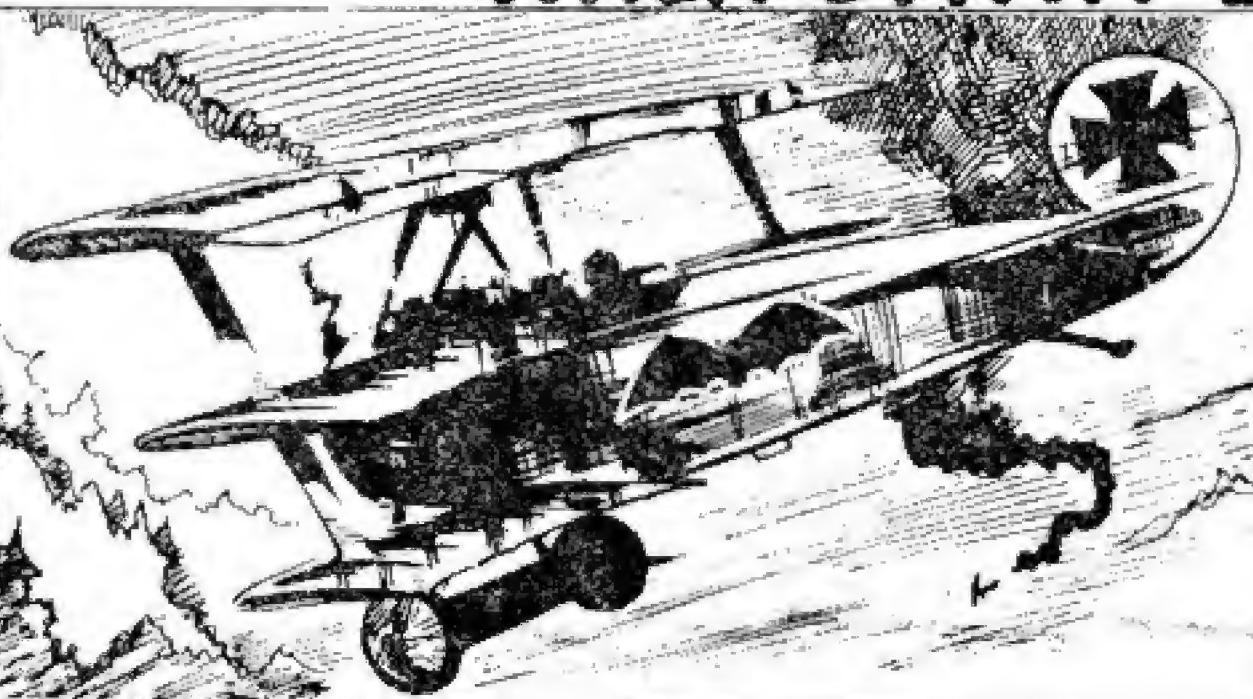
TO DECIDE WHICH WAS THE MOST PRACTICAL LOCOMOTIVE FOR USE ON THE NEW LIVERPOOL-TO-MANCHESTER RAILWAY, A TRIAL WAS HELD AT NEARBY RAINHILL IN 1829. THREE ENGINES TOOK PART... THE "NOVELTY", THE "SANS PAREIL" AND THE "ROCKET", BUILT BY GEORGE AND ROBERT STEPHENSON. THE NOW-FAMOUS "ROCKET" PROVED NOT ONLY TO BE THE FASTEST, TRAVELLING AT OVER 29 MILES AN HOUR, BUT ALSO THE MOST EFFICIENT LOCOMOTIVE: IT WENT ON WORKING FOR EIGHT YEARS, AND IS NOW IN THE SCIENCE MUSEUM IN LONDON.



TODAY, STEAM-LOCOMOTIVES HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE RAILWAYS OF BRITAIN. MODERN TRAINS ARE EITHER ELECTRIC OR DIESEL-ELECTRIC, AND ONE OF THE FINEST DIESEL ENGINES IS THE NAPIER "DELTA". TWO OF THESE 18-CYLINDER DIESEL ENGINES ARE USED IN THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC 3,300 HORSE-POWER LOCOMOTIVE WHICH PULLS THE FAMOUS "FLYING SCOTSMAN" TRAIN. WHEN FIRST INTRODUCED IN THE 1950S, THIS WAS THE MOST POWERFUL SINGLE-UNIT DIESEL-ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE IN THE WORLD.

WHEN DAWN COMES, THE BAT STRIKES!

BLACK MAX



WHEN WORLD WAR ONE AIR ACE, BARON MAXIMILIEN VON KLORR, KNOWN AS 'BLACK MAX', RETURNED TO THE WESTERN FRONT, HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A NIGHTMARISH GIANT-BAT TRAINED TO TEAR BRITISH PLANES FROM THE SKY. ONLY TIM WILSON OF THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS KNEW HIS SECRET. BUT WHEN HE CRASHED IN A WOOD BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES, BLACK MAX AND HIS KILLER-BAT CAME TO HUNT AND DESTROY HIM. AND THEY SEEMED TO HAVE SUCCEEDED...



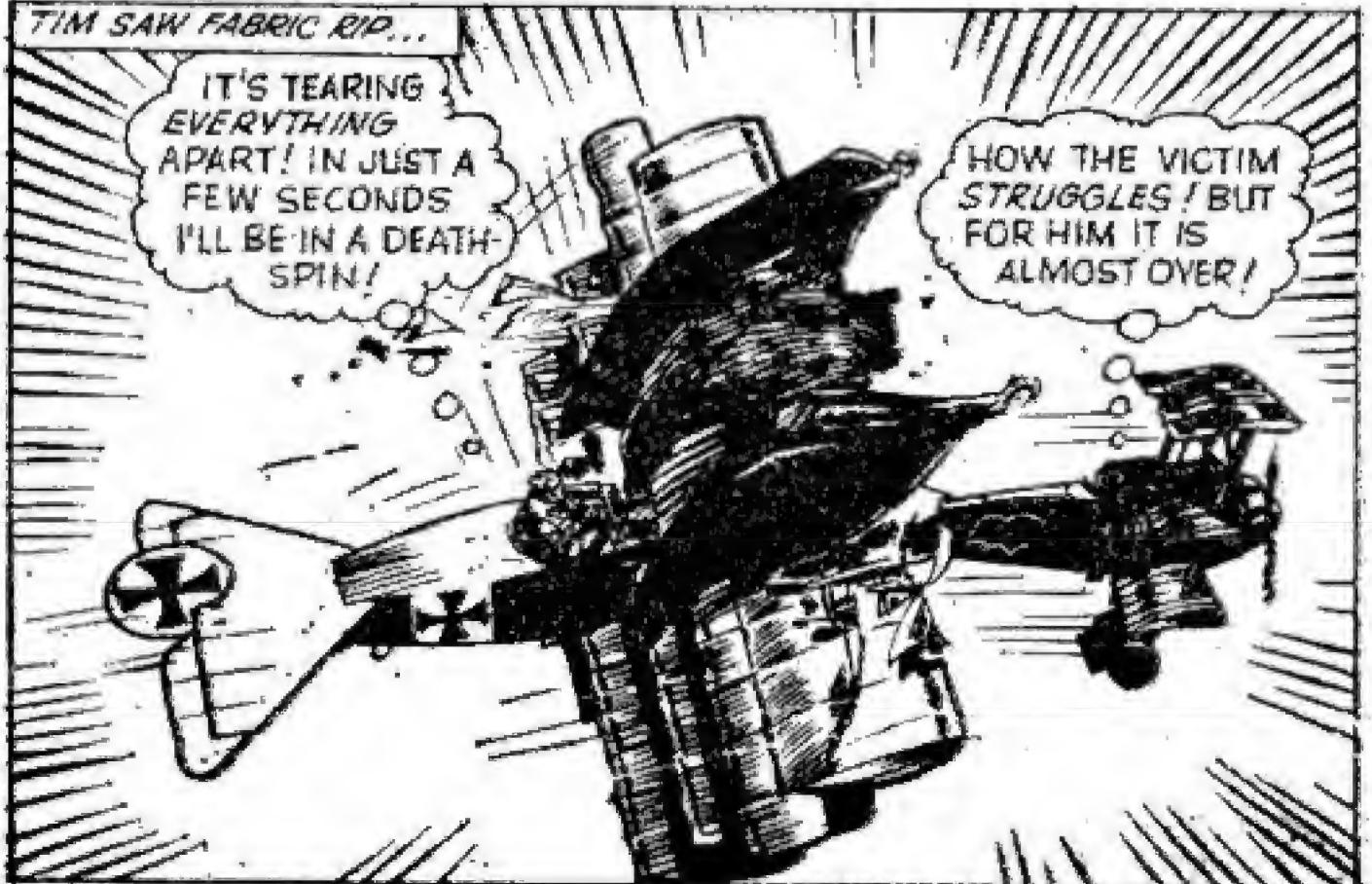
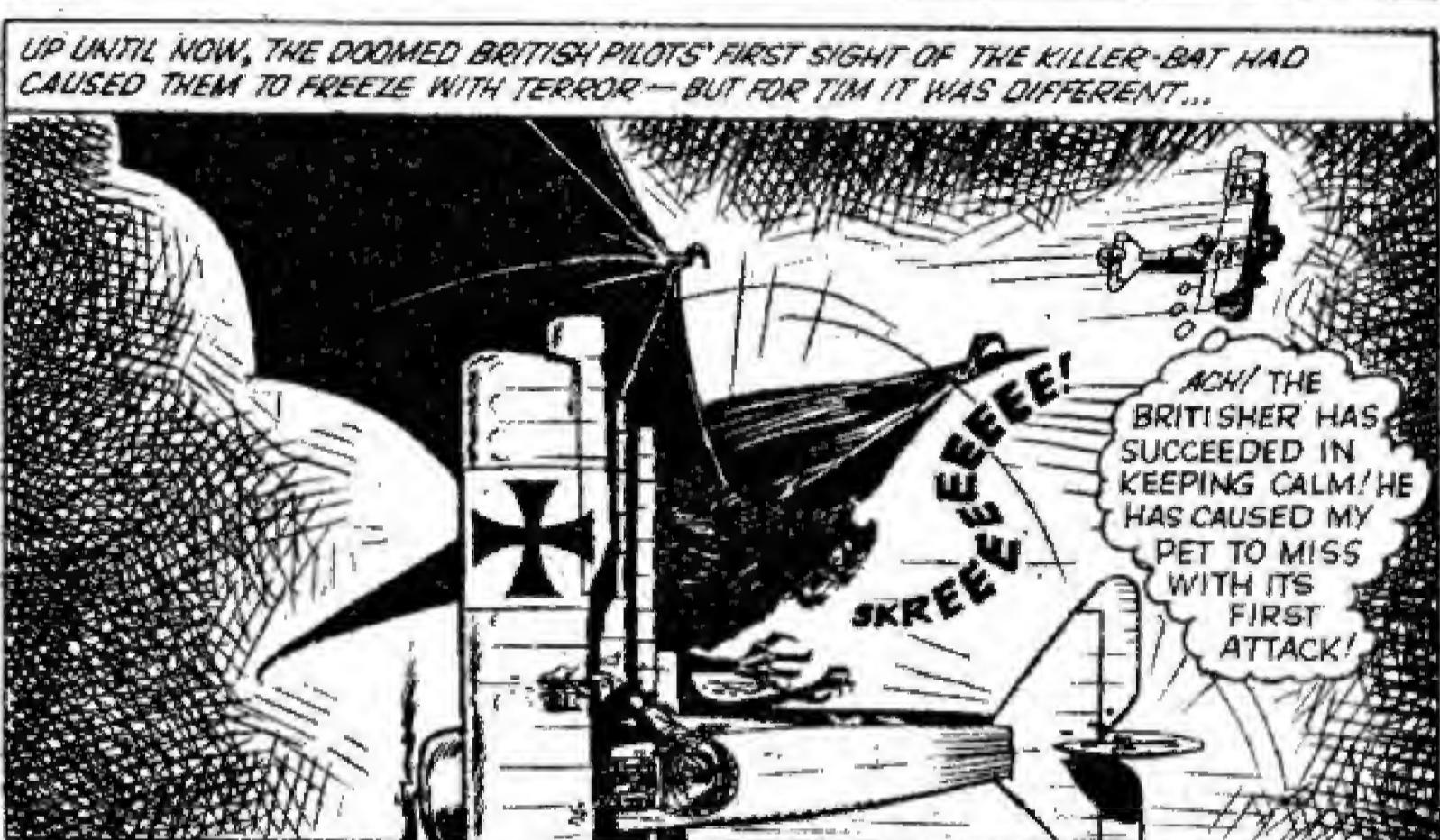
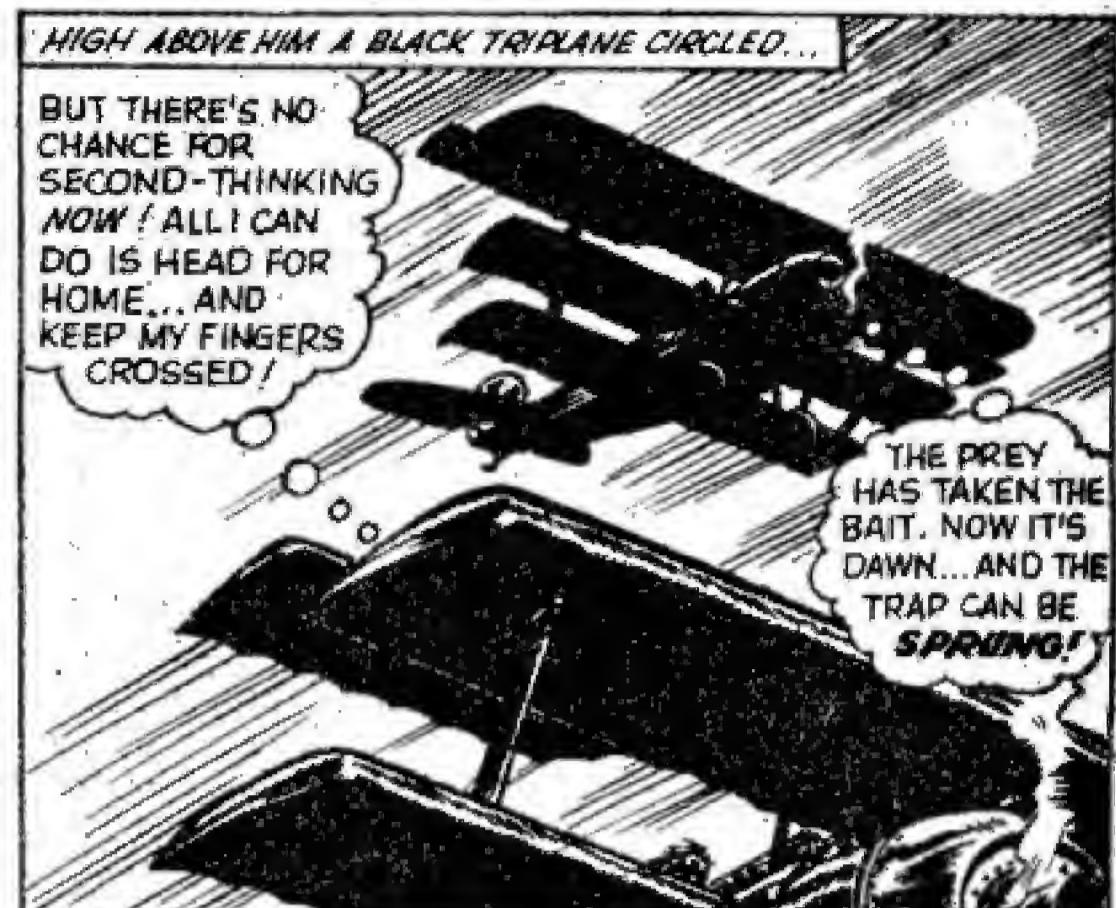
A handwriting teacher in California for 40 years was named Minnie Penman.

CRUEL FATE HAD BROUGHT TIM TO THE VERY JAGSTAFFEL COMMANDED BY BARON MAXIMILIEN VON KLORR...



CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

Pierre Etchebaster of France was World Tennis Champion for 27 years:



ADAM UNDER ARREST—FOR CRIMES HE DID NOT COMMIT!

ADAM ETERNO

SINCE THE 16TH CENTURY, ADAM ETERNO HAD BEEN WANDERING THROUGH TIME, SEARCHING FOR THE ONLY THING WHICH COULD RELEASE HIM FROM THE CURSE OF EVER-LASTING LIFE - A FATAL BLOW FROM A WEAPON OF PURE GOLD. BUT ADAM'S CRUEL FATE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A NEW AND DRAMATIC TURN... AS A SHRILL, TERRIFYING CRY RANG THROUGH THE FOG-WREATHED STREETS OF VICTORIAN LONDON!

THE DREAD NAME RANG OUT AGAIN, AND AGAIN... ECHOED BY FRANTIC PASSERS-BY AS THEY TOOK TO THEIR HEELS!

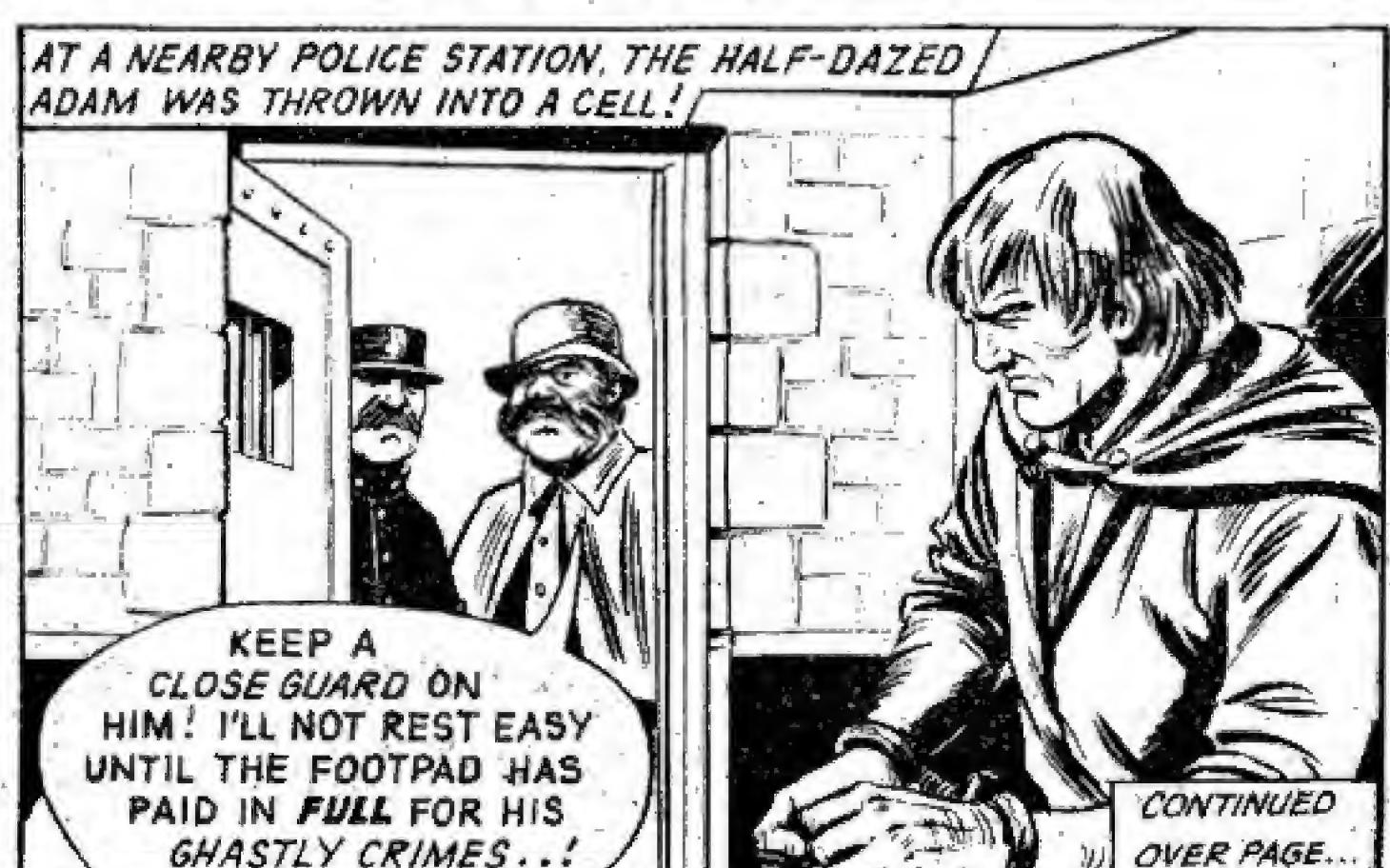
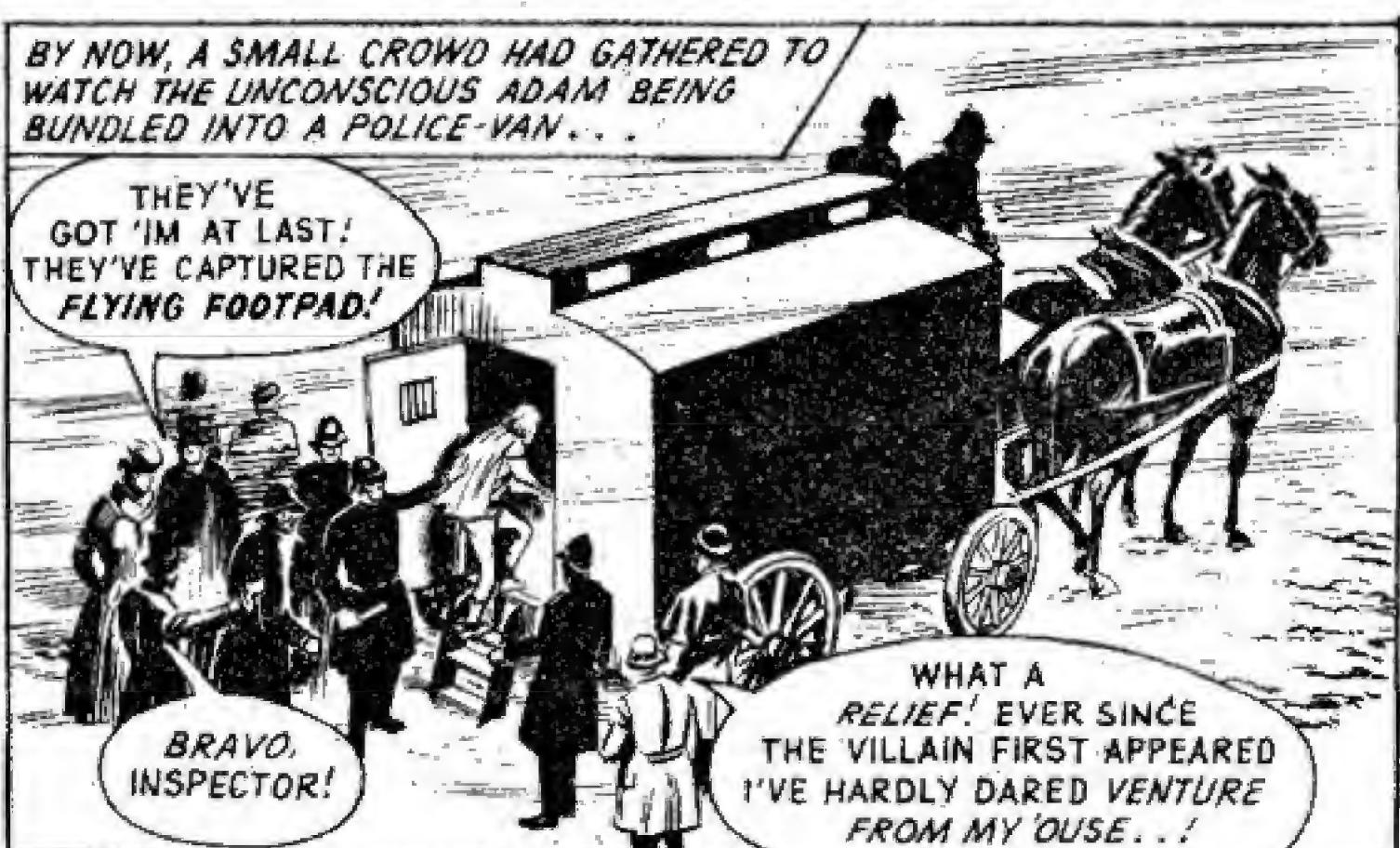


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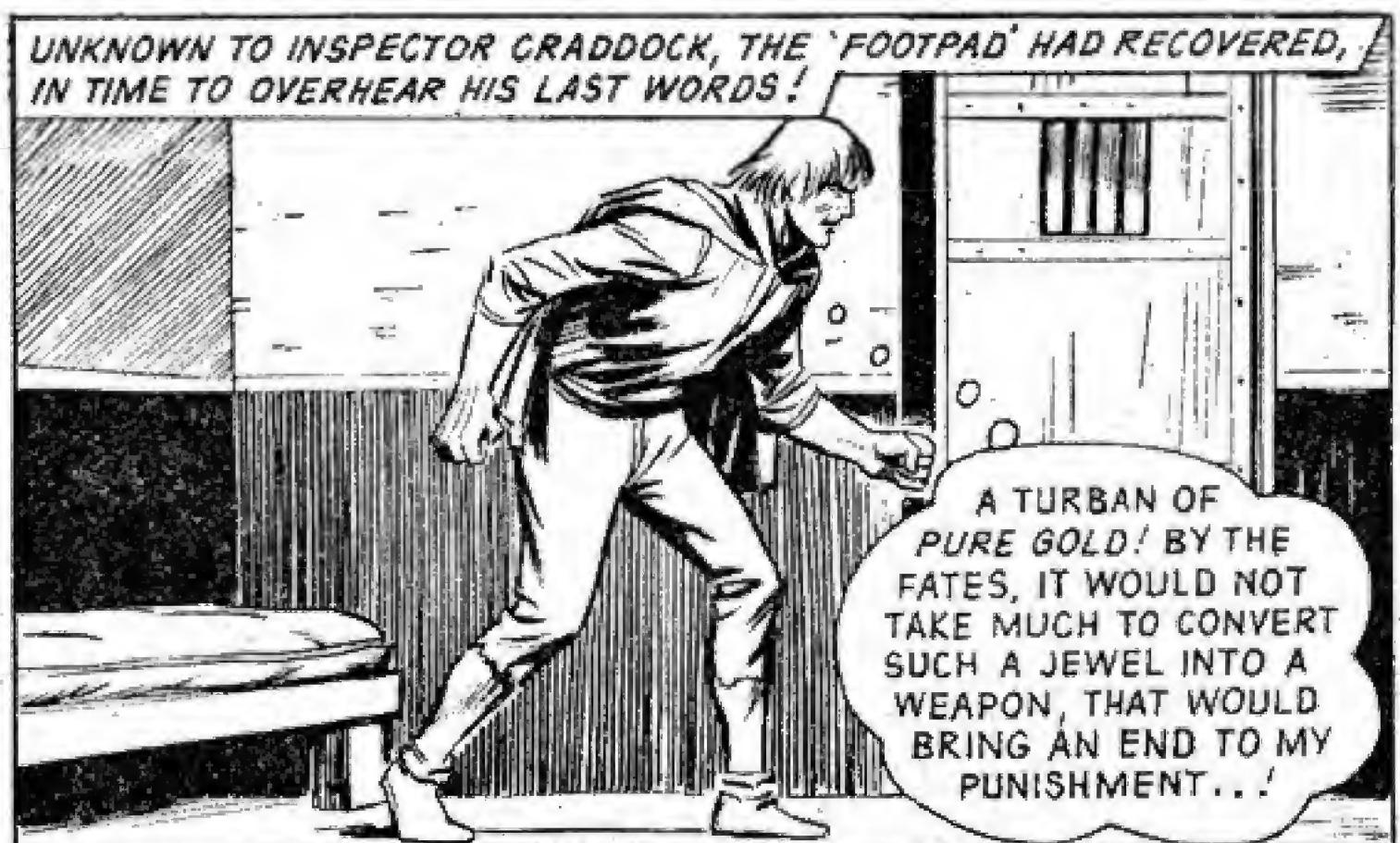
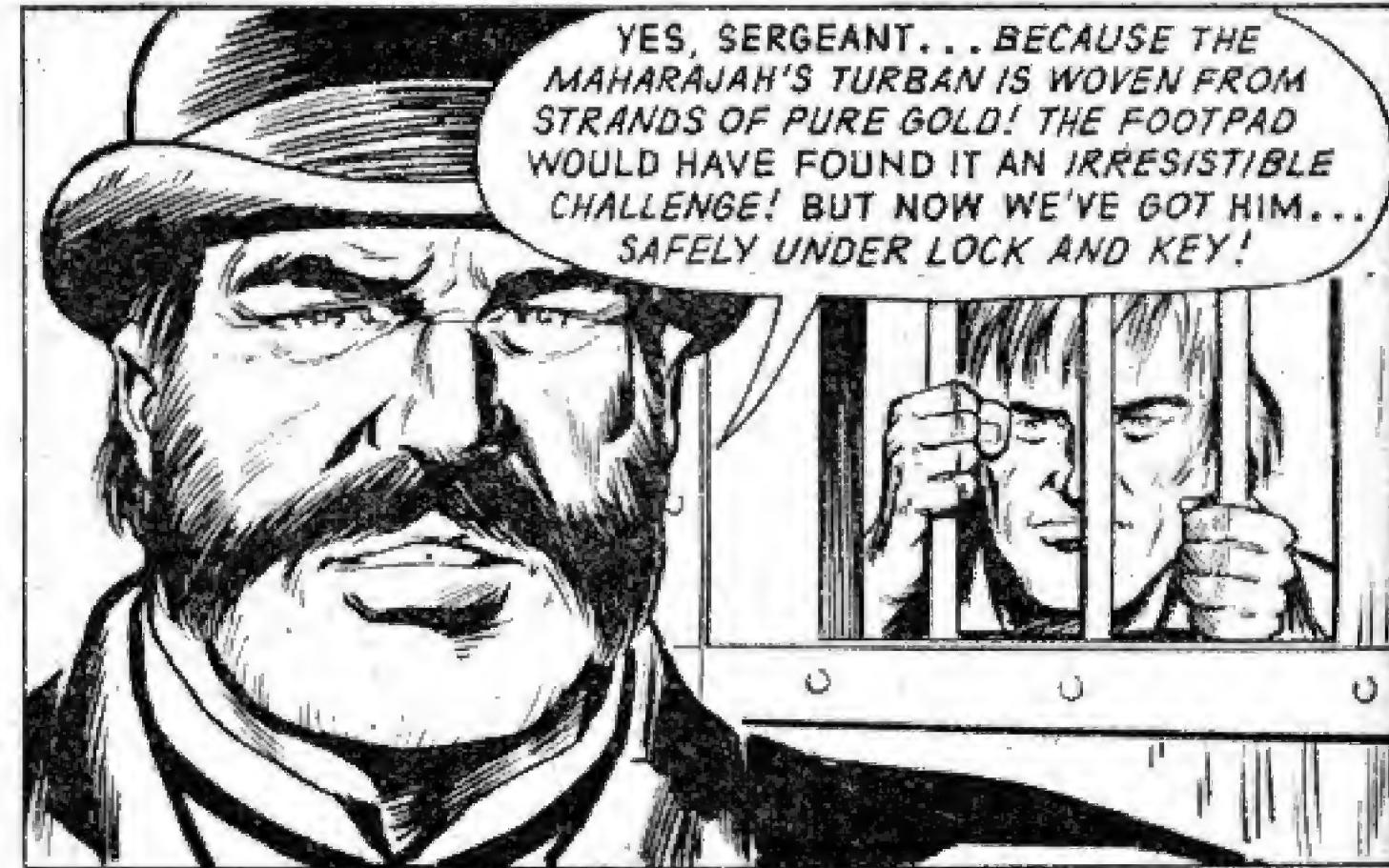
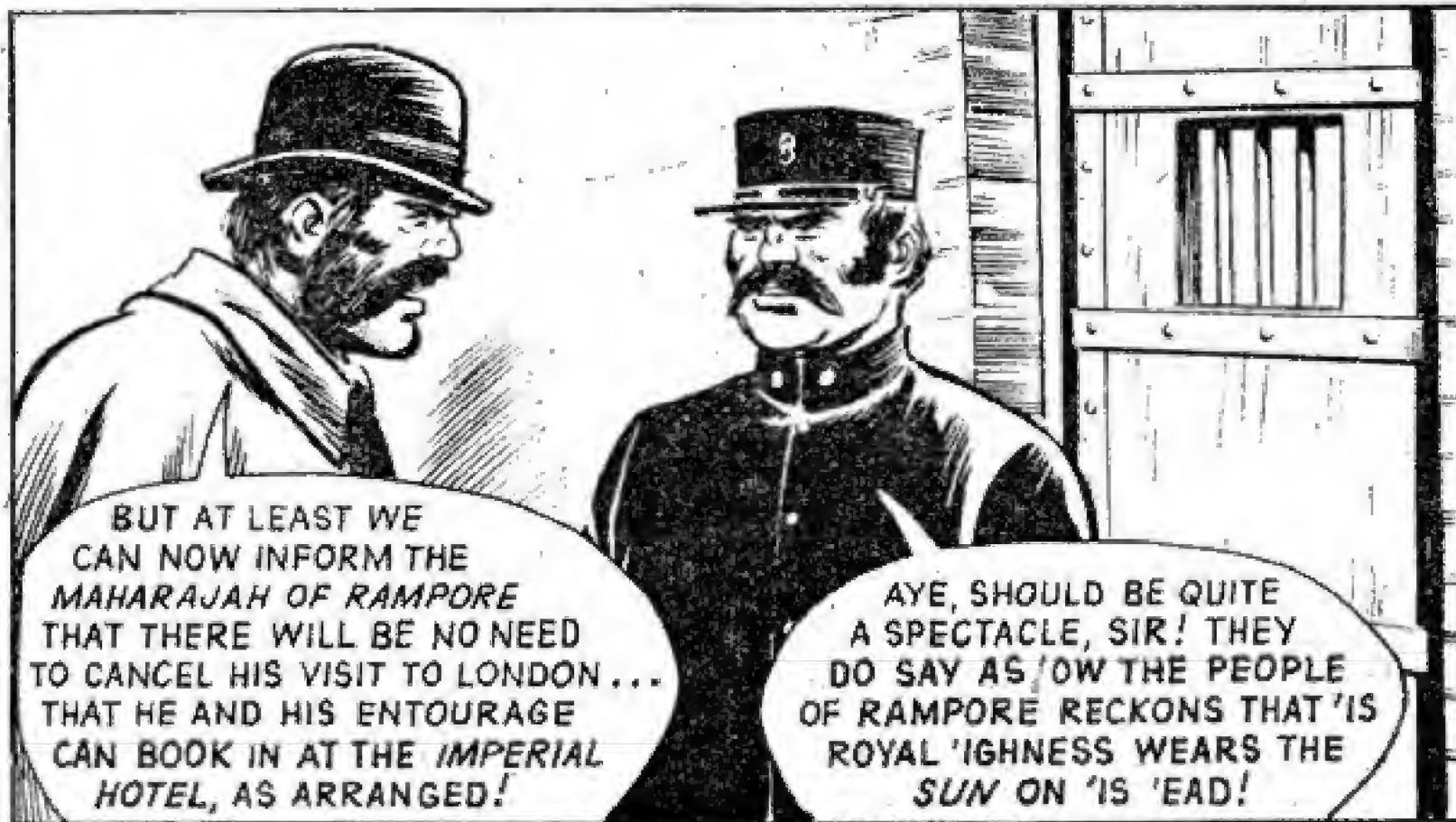
Ants actually keep 'pets'; insects commonly called green-fly.



There are worms which actually live in snow and ice.

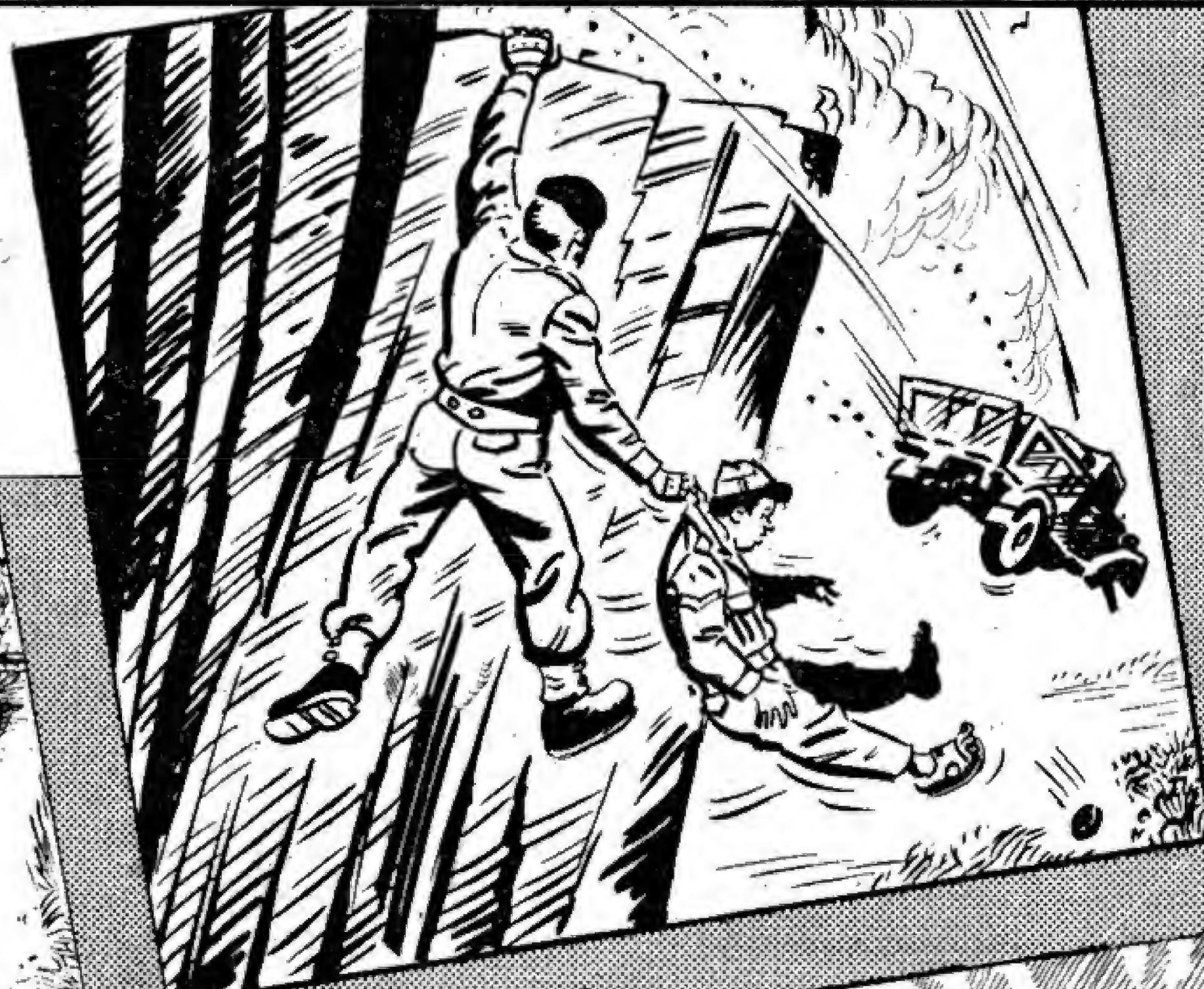


There was once a craze in America for being first one across a new bridge.



KKRRASH!

AND ERNIE BATES AND HIS MATE, THE STEEL COMMANDO, ARE IN TROUBLE!



RRRUUUMMBLE!

AND CLIFF HANGER AND KUKRI ARE IN DEADLY PERIL!



RRRAARRGH!

AND FURY'S PALS, CHIEFTAIN AND TIKKA, GO INTO THE **ATTACK!**

ALL IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THUNDER"— WHERE THERE ARE MANY MORE THRILLS TO BE HAD... AND MUCH MORE EXCITEMENT!

THUNDER

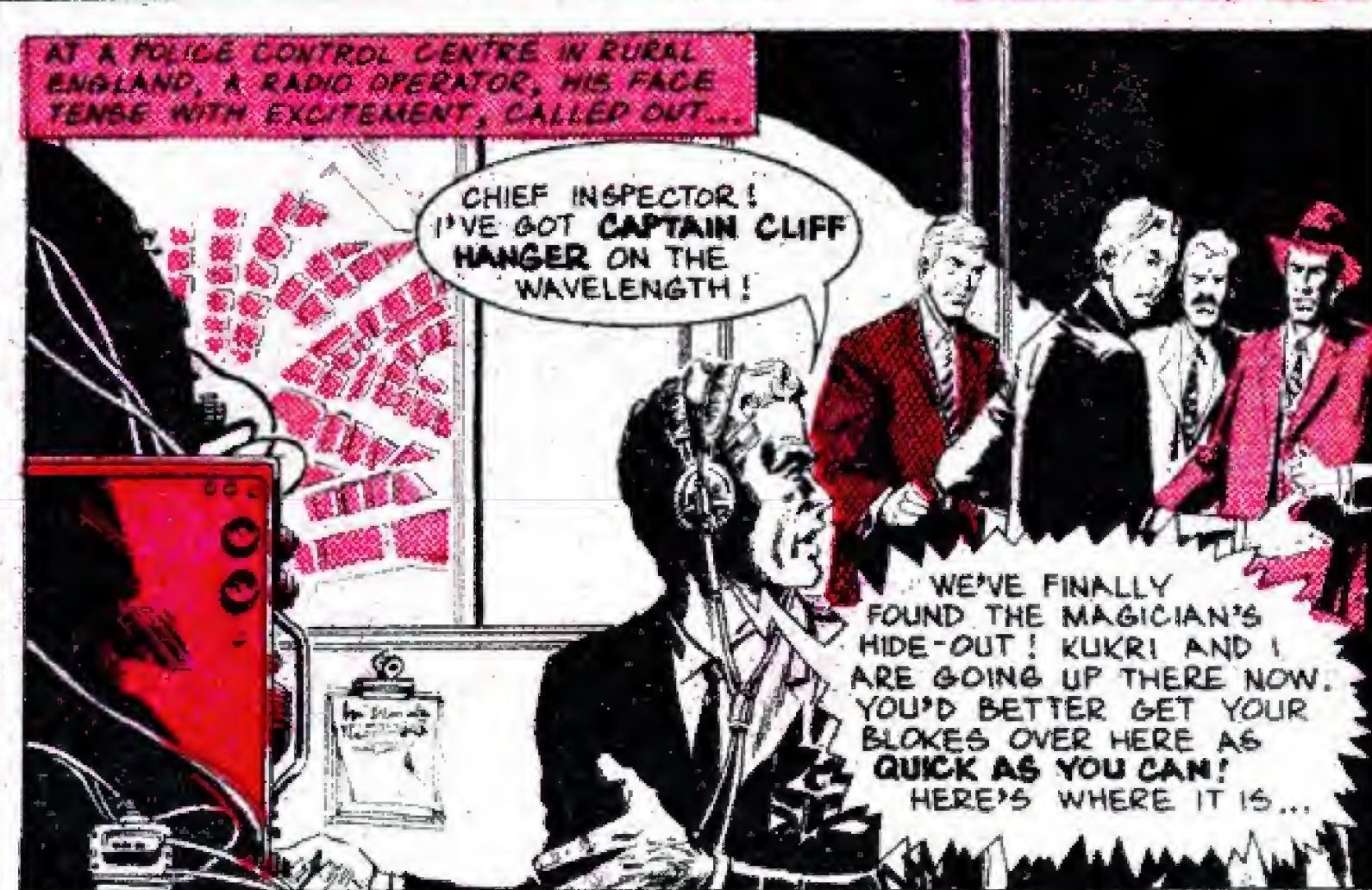
EVERY MONDAY

DANGER LURKS FOR THE TWO PALS IN THE 'TEMPLE OF MAGIC'!

CLIFF HANGER



HIT THE ADVENTURE TRAIL WITH GLOBE-ROAMING CAPTAIN CLIFF HANGER AND HIS BLADE-THROWING GURKHA PAL KUKRI! SHARE WITH THEM THEIR MOMENTS OF BREATHLESS PERIL - SEE IF YOU, TOO, CAN FIND A WAY OUT WHEN ESCAPE SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE!



AFTER THEY HAD PUT THE CALL THROUGH, THE TWO ADVENTURERS MOVED IN CLOSER...

'THE TEMPLE OF MAGIC', HE ONCE CALLED IT! WELL, HE'LL NEED A TOUCH OF MAGIC IF HE'S TO ESCAPE FROM US THIS TIME!

WELL, THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED! MAYBE HE HAS GONE, KUKRI!

WE SOON KNOW, CAPTAIN CLIFF!

SUDDENLY, AS THEY TROD WARILY INTO A HUGE GROUND-FLOOR ROOM...

THE GONG! IT BEATS! YET NO ONE TOUCHES IT!

MUST BE ONE OF THE MAGICIAN'S MANY TRICKS!



THEN AS THE LIGHTING DIMMED...

YOU, WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE... I BID YOU - WELCOME!

CLIFF... LOOK!

GRIEF! WHAT IS IT?

KUKRI'S GLITTERING BLADE FLEW FROM HIS HAND! CLIFF HANGER'S REVOLVER SPAT FLAME - BUT...

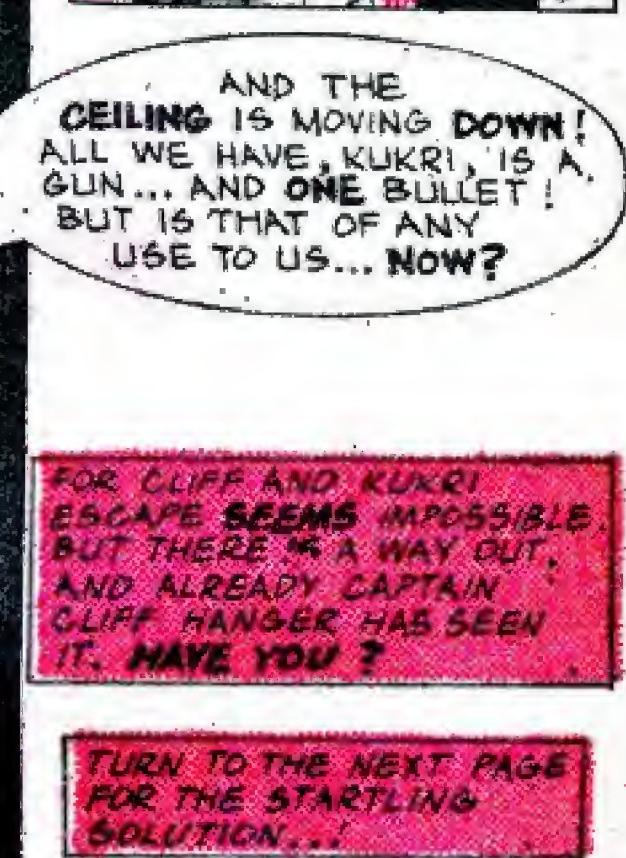
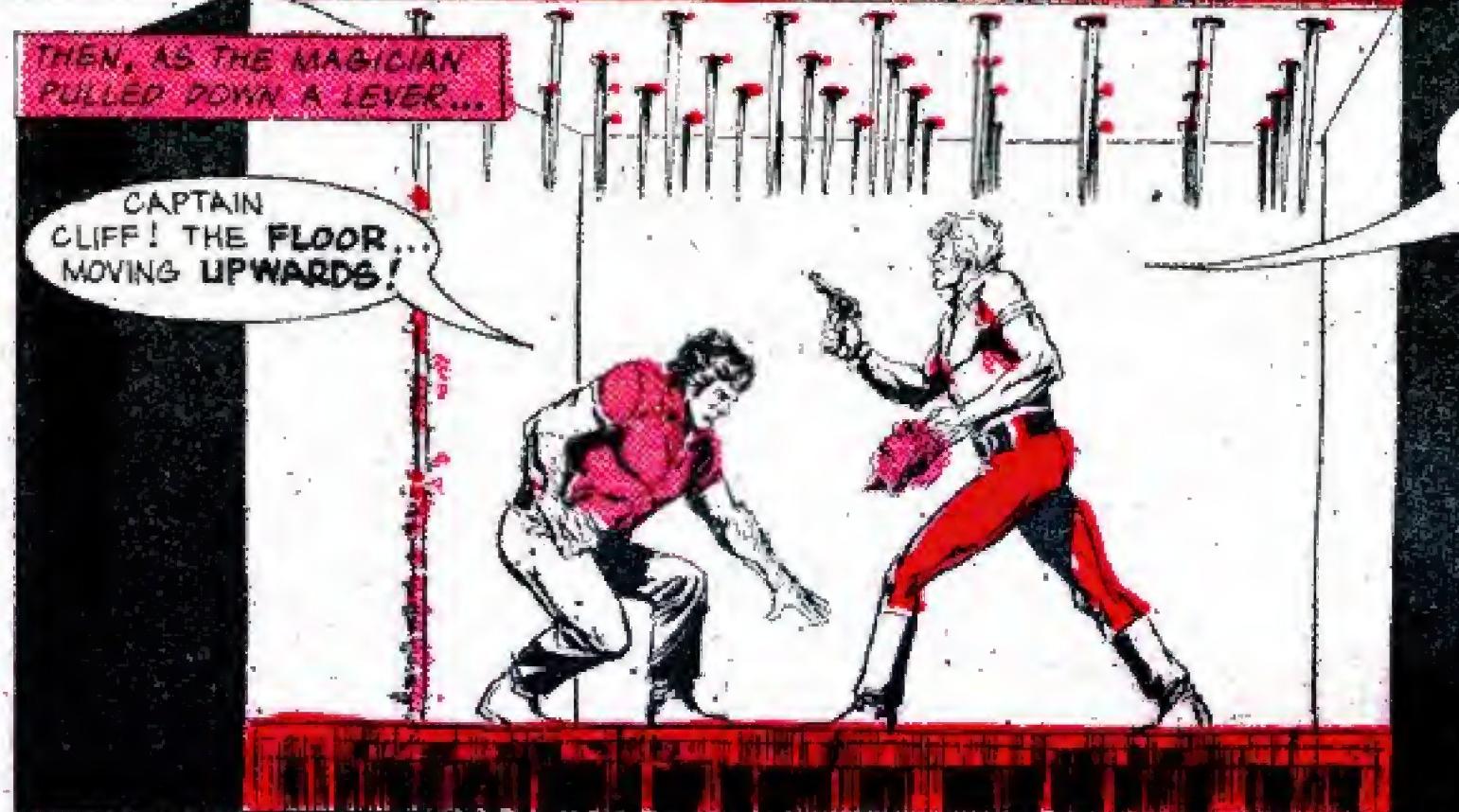
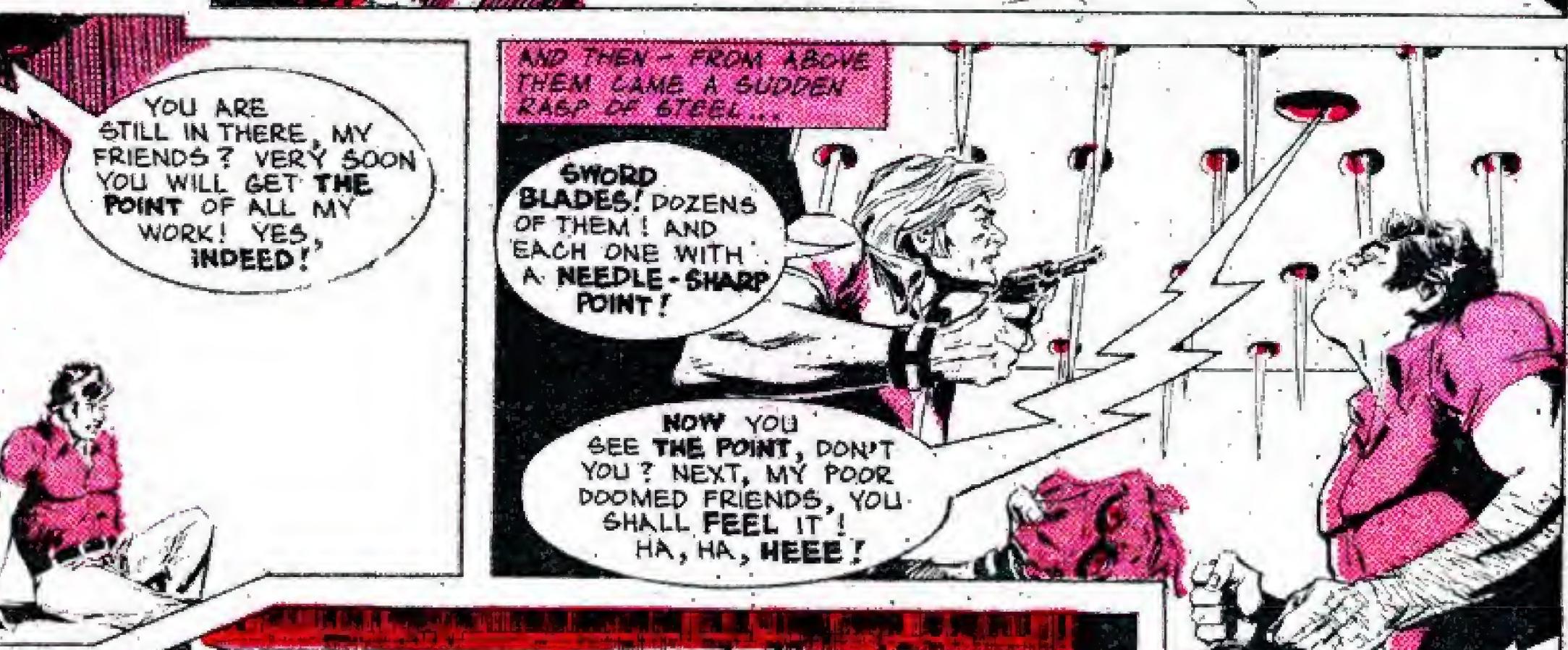
FOOLS! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN VANQUISH... ME?

AARGH! HE IS DEVIL! HE STILL UNHURT!

NO, KUKRI! IT'S A TRICK. IT MUST BE!



A man who complained his pocket had been picked was named Albert Pocket.



Ned Kelly's last words were 'Such is life'!



THE WILD BOY IS CAGED LIKE AN ANIMAL !

Fury's Family



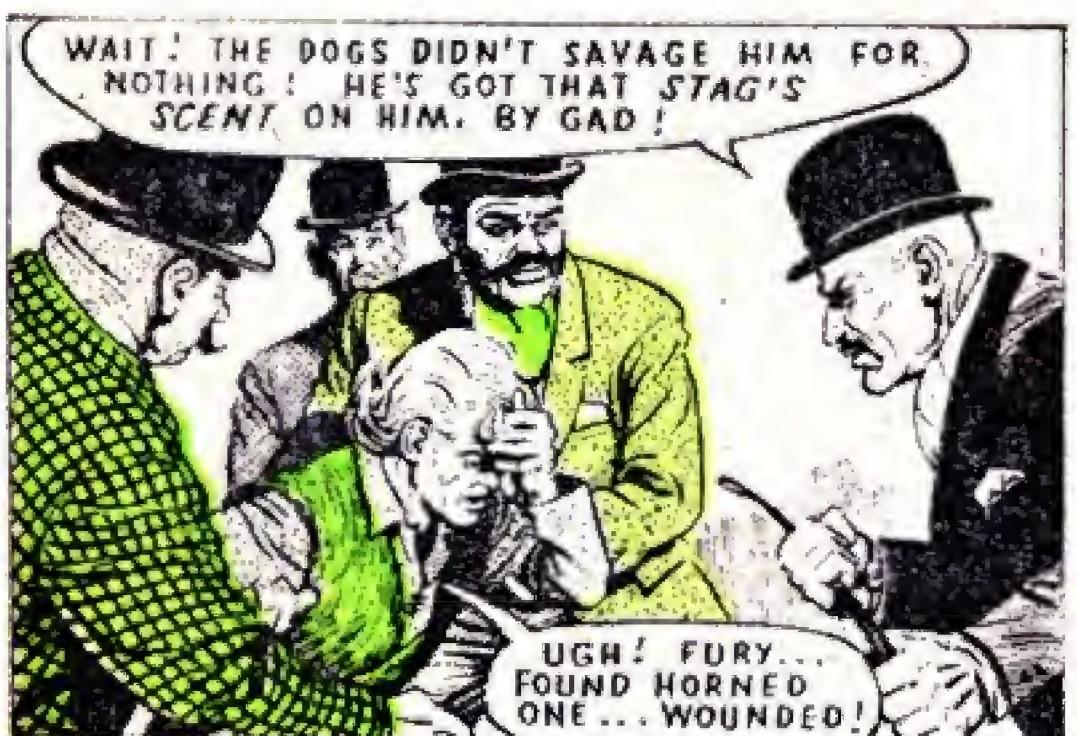
LEAVING THE CIRCUS THEY DETESTED, THE BOY CALLED FURY AND HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS TOOK REFUGE IN A HIDDEN MOUNTAIN VALLEY. FINDING A WOUNDED DEER, FURY SET OFF ALONE TO SEE WHAT HAD ATTACKED IT... AND WAS SET ON BY A PACK OF BLOOD-MAD STAG HOUNDS!

G-GOOD GRIEF ! IT— IT'S A BOY !

THEY'VE KILLED HIM !

BUT TO THE HUNTSMEN'S RELIEF...

THANK THE STARS ! PUT HIM ON A HORSE.. WE'D BETTER GET HIM TO A DOCTOR !



Spiders' webs can be used to make a kind of silk which can be woven.



The broad arrow was first used as a government mark in 1698.

BY THE TIME FURY REACHED JACKMAN MANOR, THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE KNEW ABOUT IT!

DISPERSE, AND KENNEL THE DOGS. YOU CAN LEAVE THIS BRAT TO ME !

YOU'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS, JACKMAN. YOU OUGHT TO GET A DOCTOR FOR THAT BOY, YOU KNOW...

HUMBUG! IT'S A LOCKED ROOM FOR YOU, MY LAD... UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE! MAYBE WE CAN HANG SOME POACHING CHARGES ON YOU AS WELL!

UGGH! FURY DOES NOT TAKE ANIMALS' LIVES...

A HEAVY OAKEN DOOR SLAMMED ON HIM... AND FURY WAS A PRISONER!

I MUST GET AWAY! MY FRIENDS NEED ME...

THEN...

HUH...? IT IS THE HORN-BEAKED HAMMERING ONE!

THOKKA THOKKA THOKKA

THROOP THROK THRIKKA! SKREEP SKROOL!

WHAT? MY FRIENDS ARE COMING TO RESCUE ME? CHIEFTAIN IS ALREADY HERE...?

RARRRL, CHIEFTAIN! GARF GNORR CHANG!

GRAFF! SNURR!

SOON, FURY SAW THE LUMBERING SHAPE OF THE GIANT GORILLA THRUSTING THROUGH THE TREES...

WILD FOREST CREATURES TOLD CHANG OF MY CAPTURE! FURY WILL SOON BE FREE NOW!

CHANG BEGAN TO CLIMB THE IVY ON THE TOWER...

BUT, INSIDE THE TOWER...

WHAT THE DEVIL WAS THAT? SOMEONE OUTSIDE...?



LOST! ONE FIRST TEAM FOOTBALLER!

DUSTY BINNS

PA BINNS WANTED HIS SON, DUSTY, TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY RAG-AND-BONE BUSINESS, BUT DUSTY WANTED TO MAKE FOOTBALL HIS CAREER. ON THE MORNING OF THE BIG DAY IN WHICH HE WAS GOING TO PLAY WITH OOLDTOWN WANDERERS' FIRST ELEVEN, DUSTY HELPED HIS DAD MOVE SOME JUNK FROM A RICKETY, DERELICT OLD MANSION. THERE, UNNOTICED BY ANYONE ELSE, A SECRET TRAPDOOR OPENED BEHIND HIM...



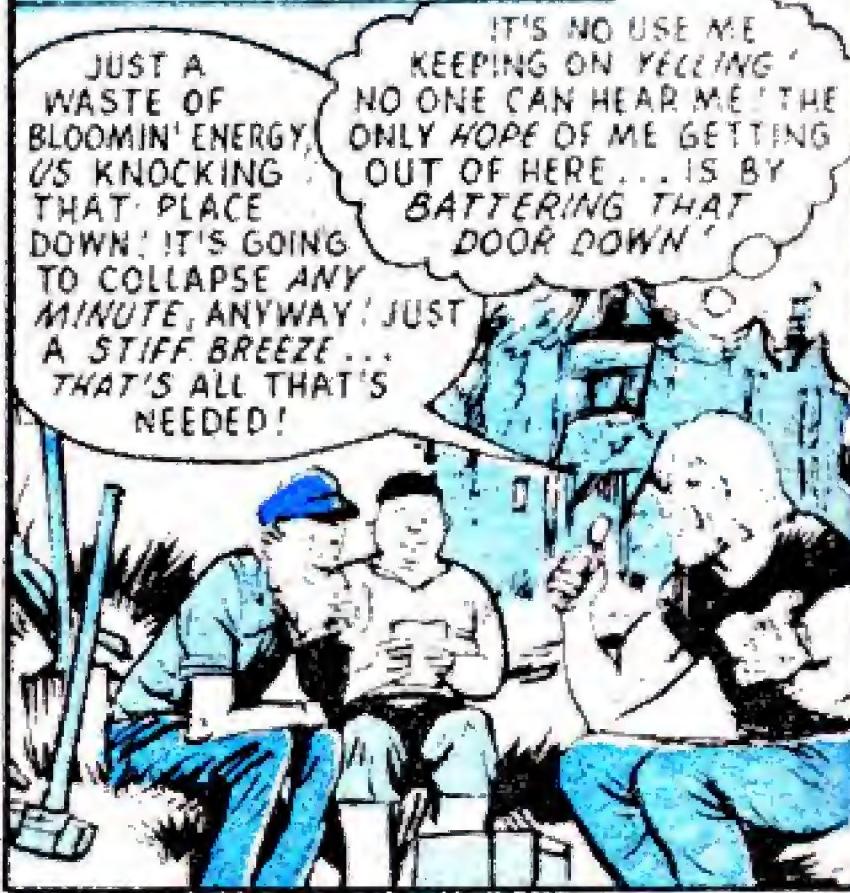
OOLDTOWN WANDERERS' MATCH AGAINST REDCLIFF UNITED WAS ABOUT TO START - BUT...



...NO, MR. BINNS, YOUR SON ISN'T HERE BECAUSE I REALISE HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS TO HIM. I'M KEEPING HIS PLACE OPEN! I JUST HOPE HE DOES SHOW UP!

BUT... BUT IF DUSTY AIN'T HERE... THEN WHERE THE 'ECK IS HE?

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, BACK AT THE DERELICT MANSION HOUSE...



IT'S NO USE ME KEEPING ON YELLING. NO ONE CAN HEAR ME! THE ONLY HOPE OF ME GETTING OUT OF HERE... IS BY BATTERING THAT DOOR DOWN!



BUT, TWENTY MINUTES LATER, DOWN IN THE SECRET ROOM INTO WHICH DUSTY HAD FALLEN...

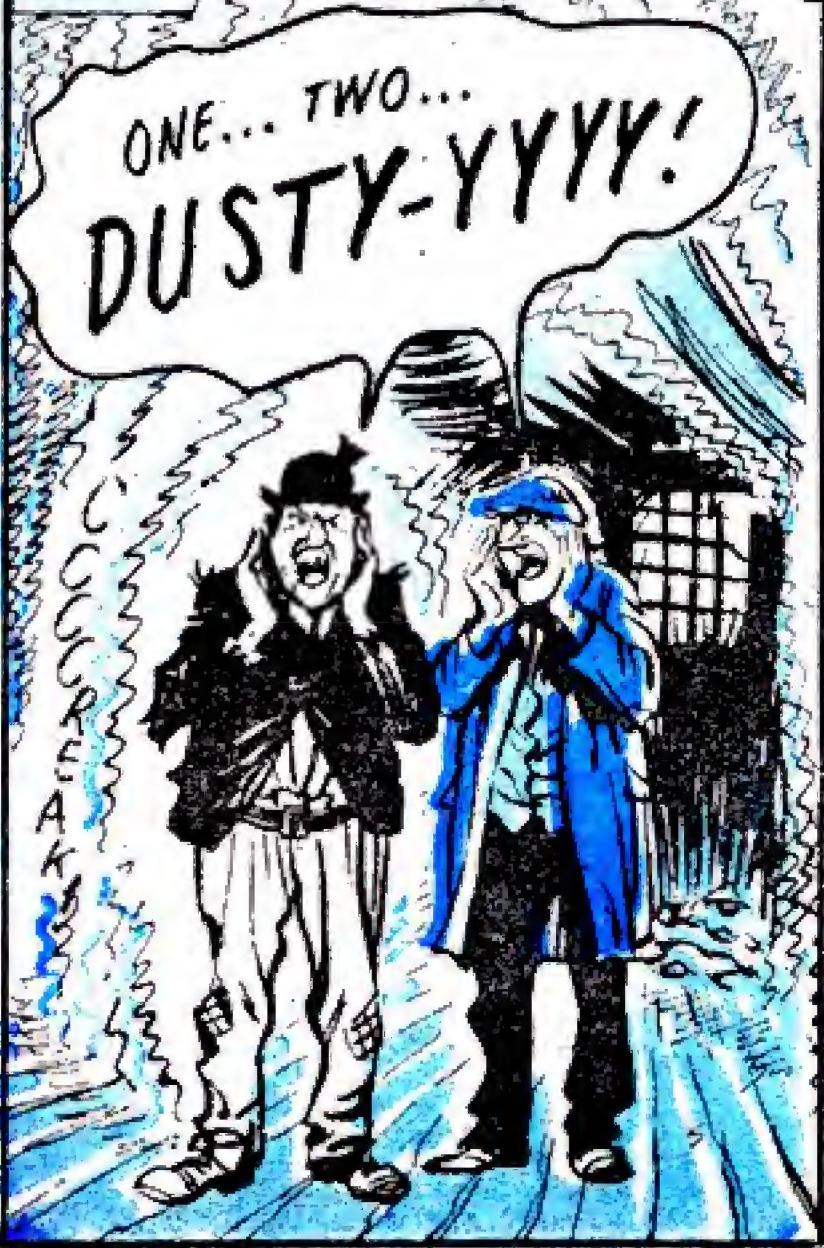
S'NO USE! ALL I'VE DONE IS WEAR MYSELF OUT! DARNED DOOR'S BOLTED ON THE OTHER SIDE! IT HASN'T BUDGED AN INCH!



THEN... THEY SAID THIS OLD DUMP WAS FULL OF SECRET PASSAGES, AN' AS DUSTY AIN'T NOWHERE ELSE.. HE MUST BE 'ERE! WE'LL YELL OUT FOR 'IM... BOTH TOGETHER!

HEY! DON'T GO BANGING AROUND IN THERE... OR YOU'LL HAVE THE FLIPPIN' PLACE ROUND YOUR EARS!

THE TWO FRIENDS TOOK A DEEP BREATH, AND...



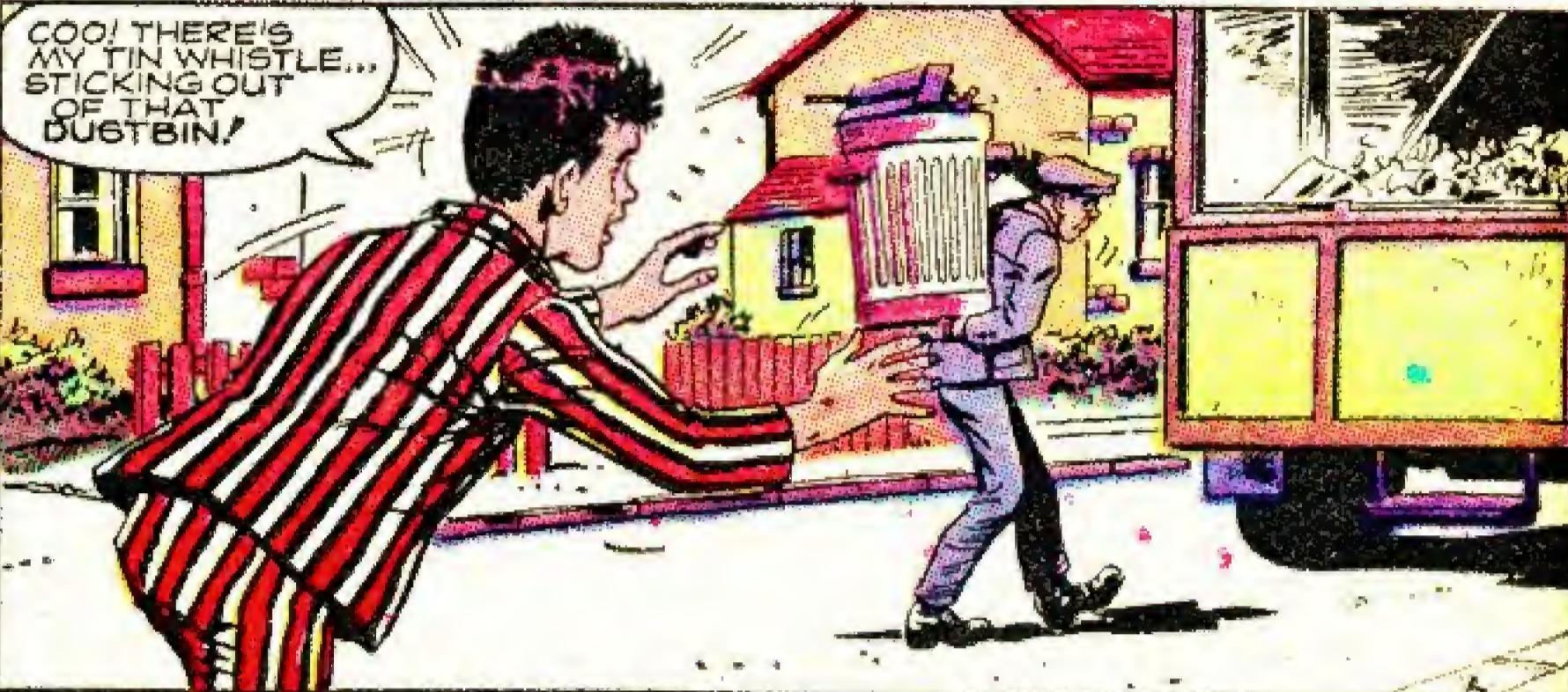
The 'Long Man' hill carving at Wilmington, Sussex, is 226 feet long.



IT'S LOST! THE TIN WHISTLE BELONGING TO...

PHIL THE FLUTTER

PHIL TAYLOR DISCOVERED AN OLD TIN WHISTLE... AND FOUND THAT IT HAD STRANGE POWERS. WHENEVER HE BLEW A CERTAIN NOTE, TIME SEEMED TO STAND STILL — EVERYONE WITHIN HEARING BECAME ROOTED TO THE SPOT AND REMEMBERED NOTHING ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS. BUT, ONE DAY, PHIL'S MUM THREW THE WHISTLE AWAY BY MISTAKE...

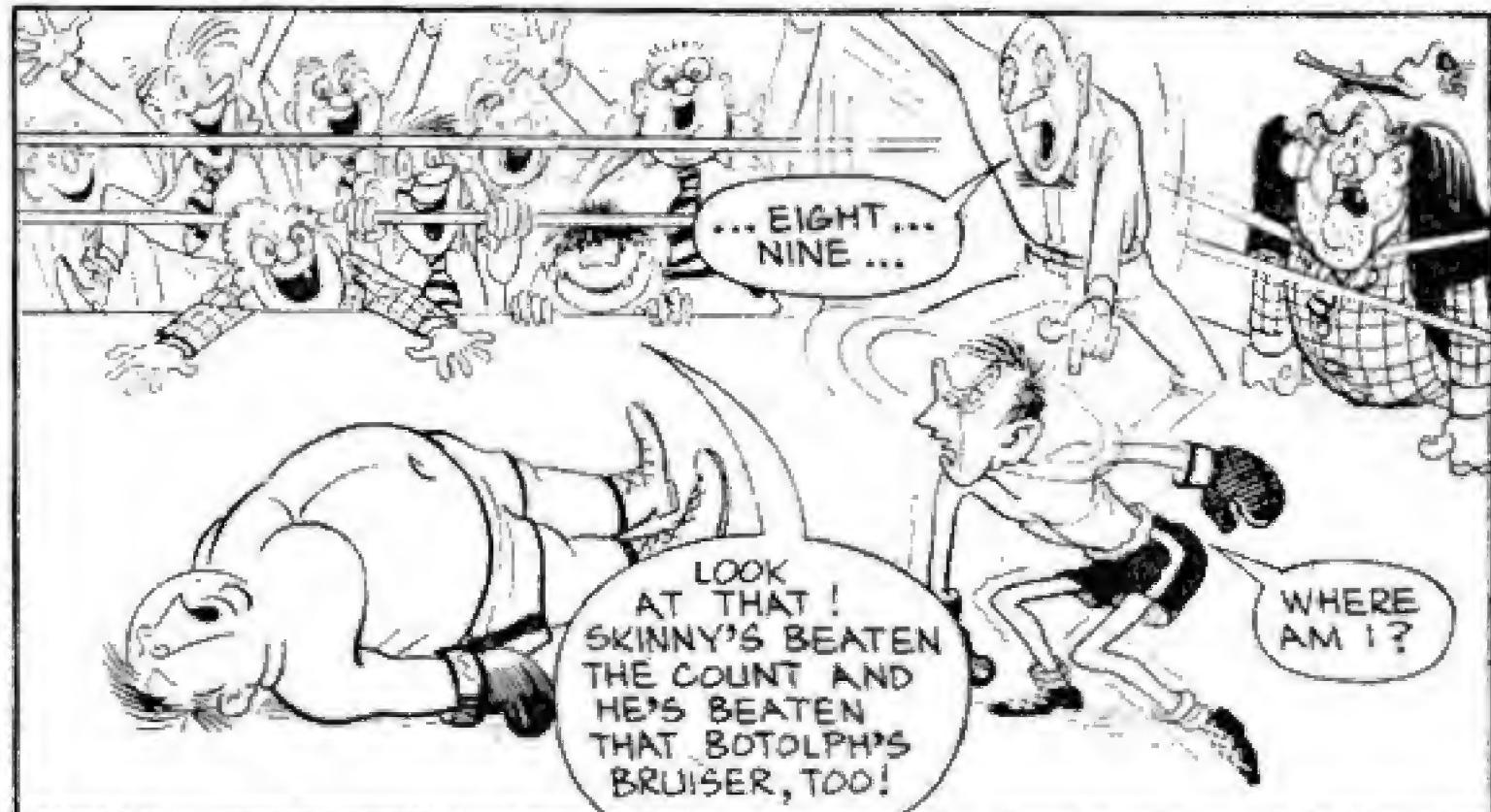
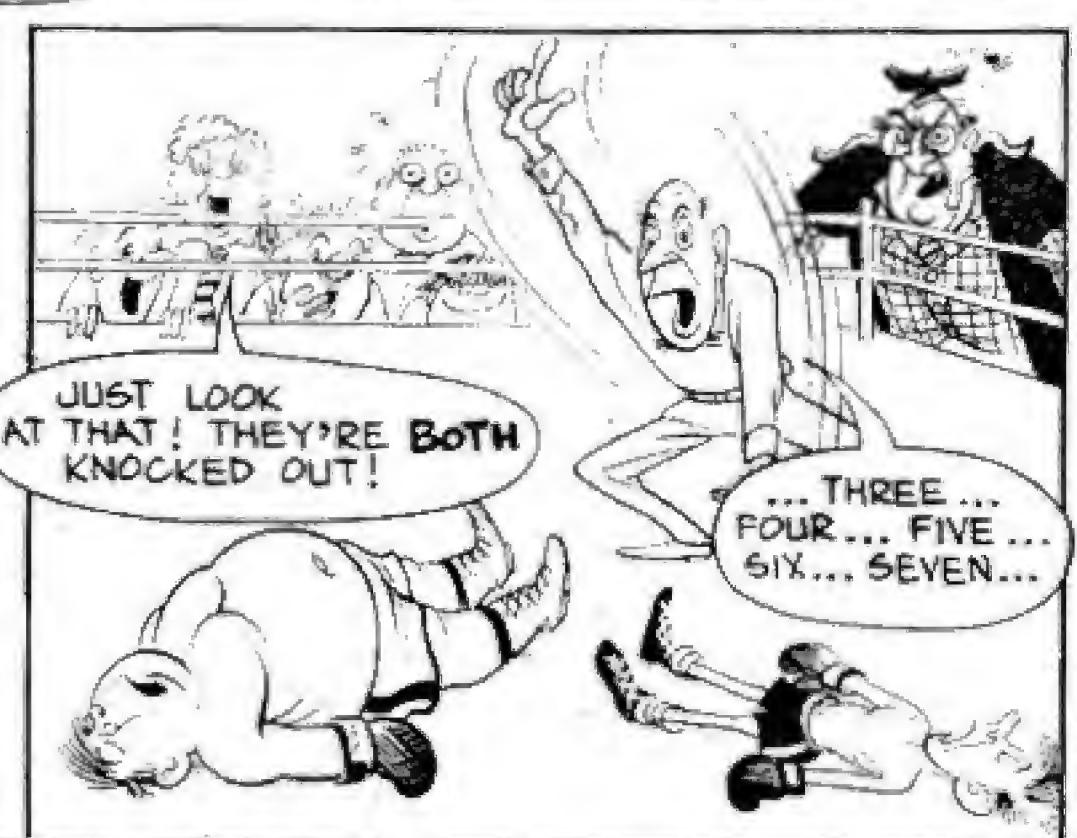
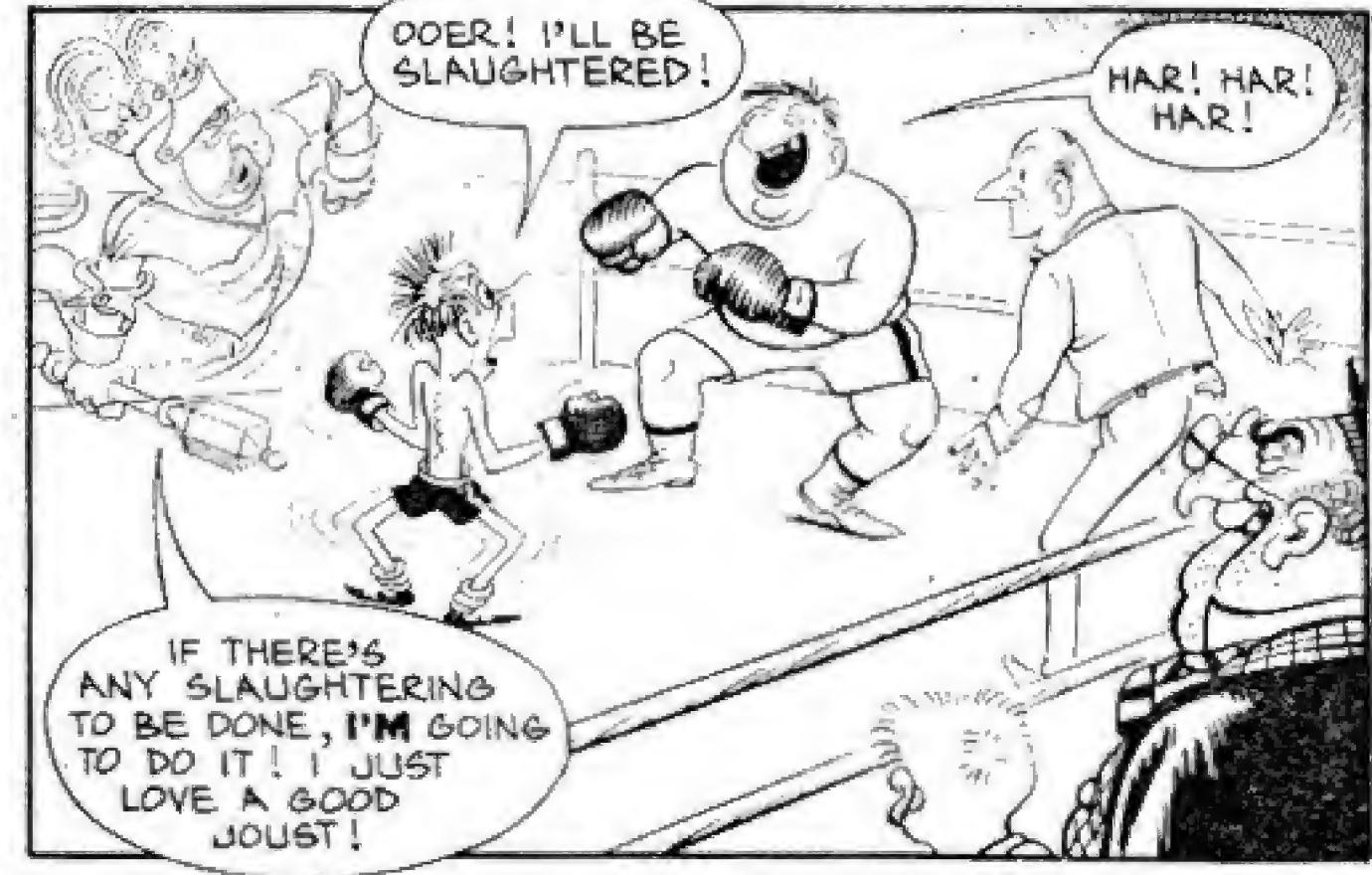
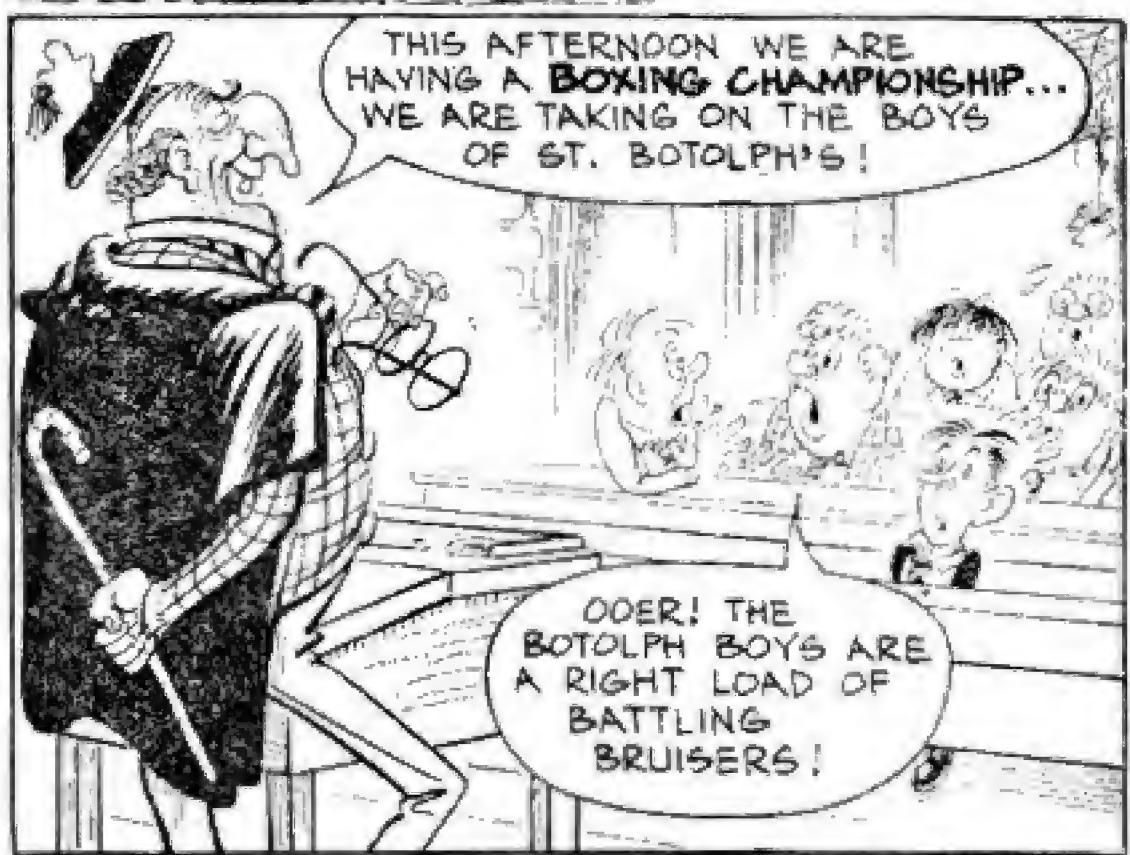


The gas-cooker was invented by a German in 1802.



KNOCKOUT FUN WITH YOUR GHOSTLY PALS!

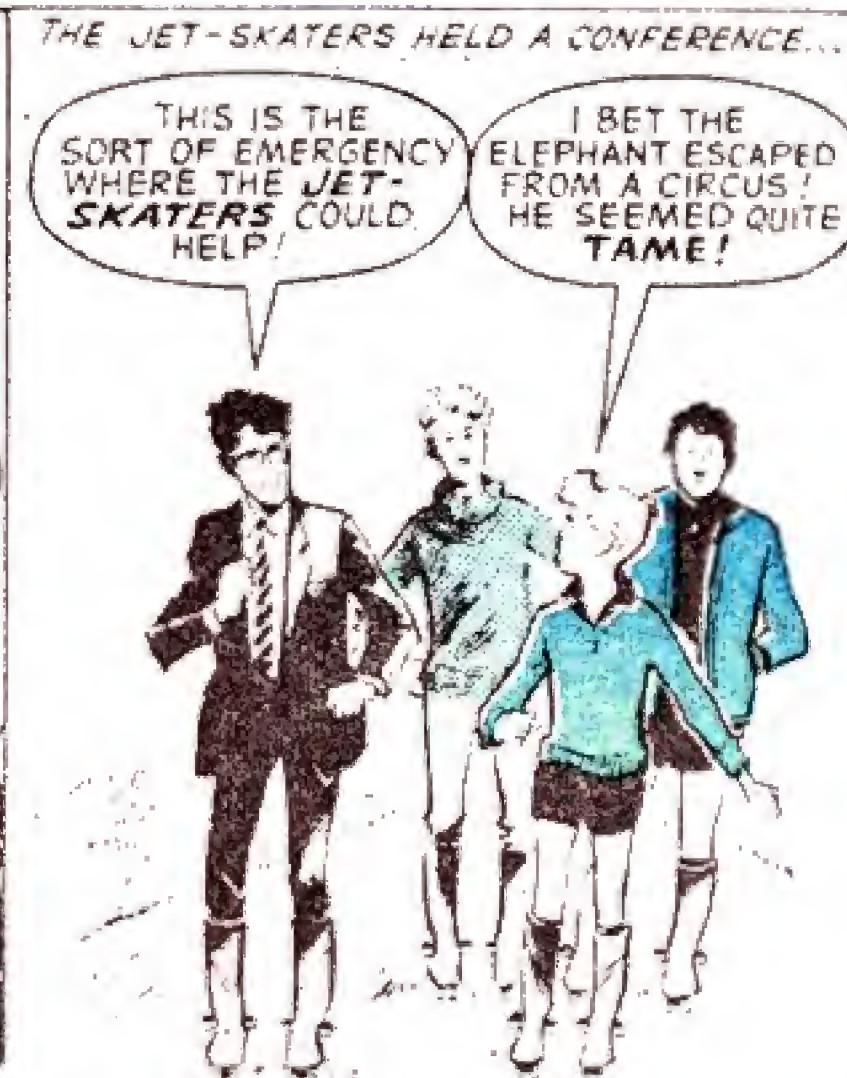
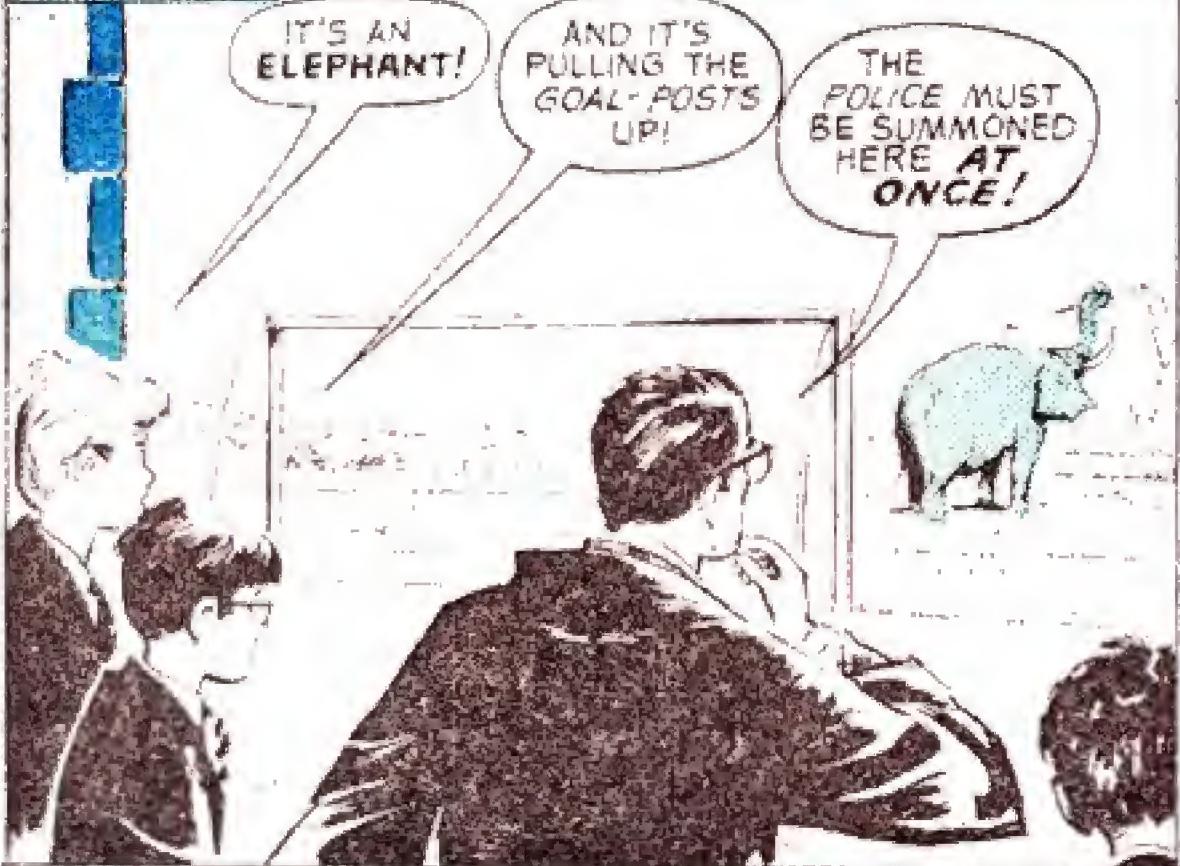
THE SPOOKS OF ST. LUKE'S



A STRAY ELEPHANT MEANS A HALF-DAY HOLIDAY FOR...

THE JET-SKATERS

JIMMY AND PETER CLARKE, GORDON STONE AND ANDY JACKSON WERE GIVEN SUPER JET-POWERED ROLLER SKATES BY ANDY'S AMERICAN UNCLE, AND THEY FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A GANG, 'THE JET-SKATERS'. ONE DAY, AT SCHOOL, AN ELEPHANT APPEARED...



THEY TURNED UP THE POWER OF THEIR JET-SKATES...

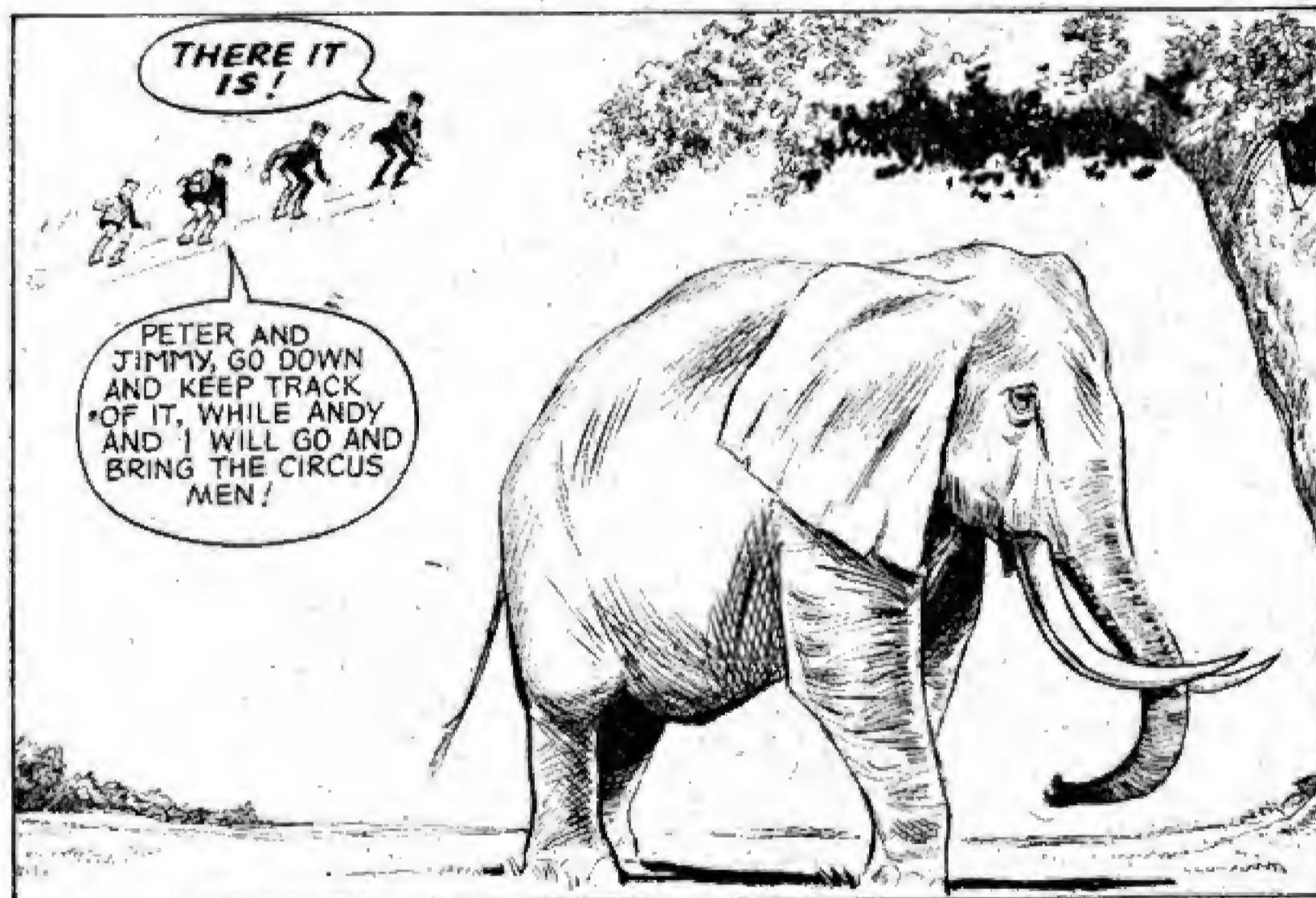
THERE'S A CIRCUS OUT AT HALLDON'S FIELD! I SAW A POSTER IN THE VILLAGE THIS MORNING!

I BET THE ELEPHANT CAME FROM THERE!

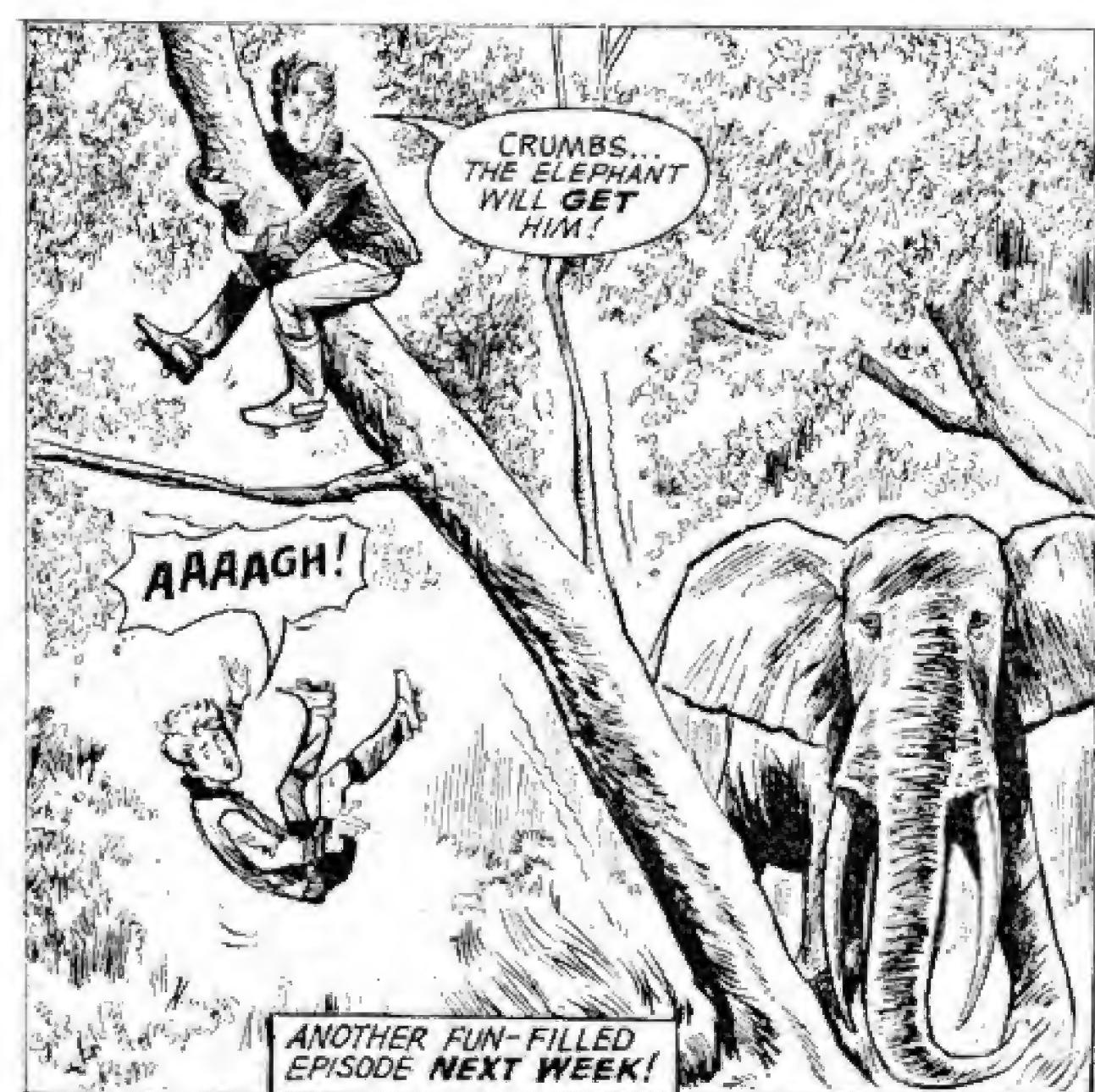


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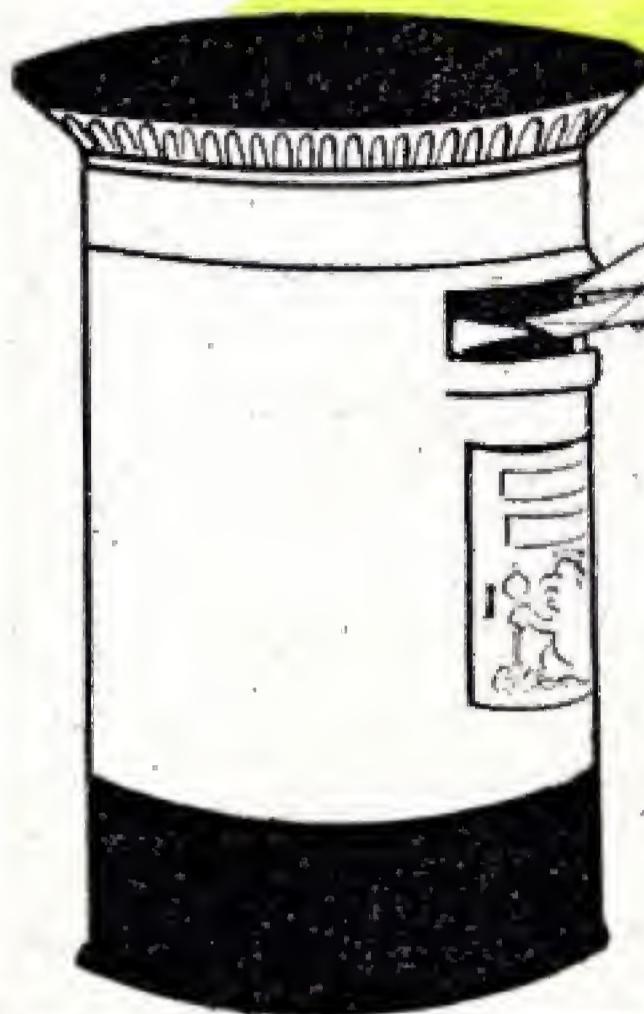
A well-known American auctioneer was named Roy Holler.



The world's largest pyramid is in Mexico, is 177 feet high, and covers 45 acres.



"SEND 'EM IN!" says SAM



£1 — for you!

That's what I'll pay for any letters, jokes, rhymes, riddles, or anything else that I pick to be printed on this page. Send 'em in to : Sam, "Thunder", Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4 . . . and let me know your three favourite stories, too !



STAR LETTER

Dear Sam,

A few days ago, my young brother saw me planting some seeds in a jam jar. I told him I was going to wait for them to shoot and then plant them in the garden. Yesterday, he rushed to the jam jar and asked, 'Are they firing yet?'

Nigel Meek, Wiltshire



PICTURE GALLERY

Dear Sam,
Hanging on the wall in my bedroom is a large board, on which I have glued pictures cut out from all my comics. Pride of place on my 'picture gallery' is given to my new favourite characters in "Thunder"!

Robert Harris,
Newcastle

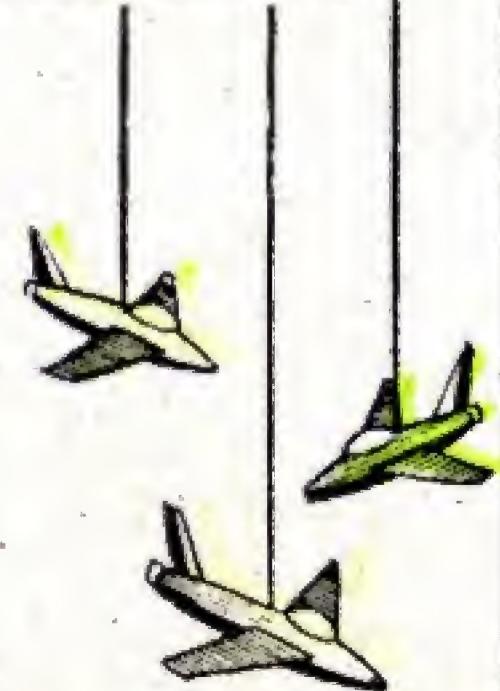


SAM SAYS : That's a jolly good idea—I wish I'd have thought of it first ! But isn't it rather wasteful to snip up your old copies ? Most of my pals try to keep all their comics in the best possible condition.

THE PLANE MAKERS

Dear Sam,
I thought you might like to know about our hobby of collecting model-aircraft kits which we suspend from our bedroom ceiling on very fine cotton. This makes the models look very realistic. We put a long length of cotton on the front of the plane, and attach a short piece to the back. So then the planes look as if they are diving. We have done this to eight of our models.

Brian and Steven Terson, Wakefield



LIGHTNING SERVICE!

Dear Sam,

Do you know why a bus is never struck by lightning ?

Mike Castle, Richmond
SAM SAYS : The answer is quite simple really . . . Because it has a conductor !



Dear Sam,

When our family came home from a boat cruise, there was a notice on the boat which read :

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, PASSENGERS SHOULD PROCEED TO THE BACK OF THE BOAT AS DIRECTED BY THE ARROWS WEARING LIFE-JACKETS.

Jeremy Carne, Poole

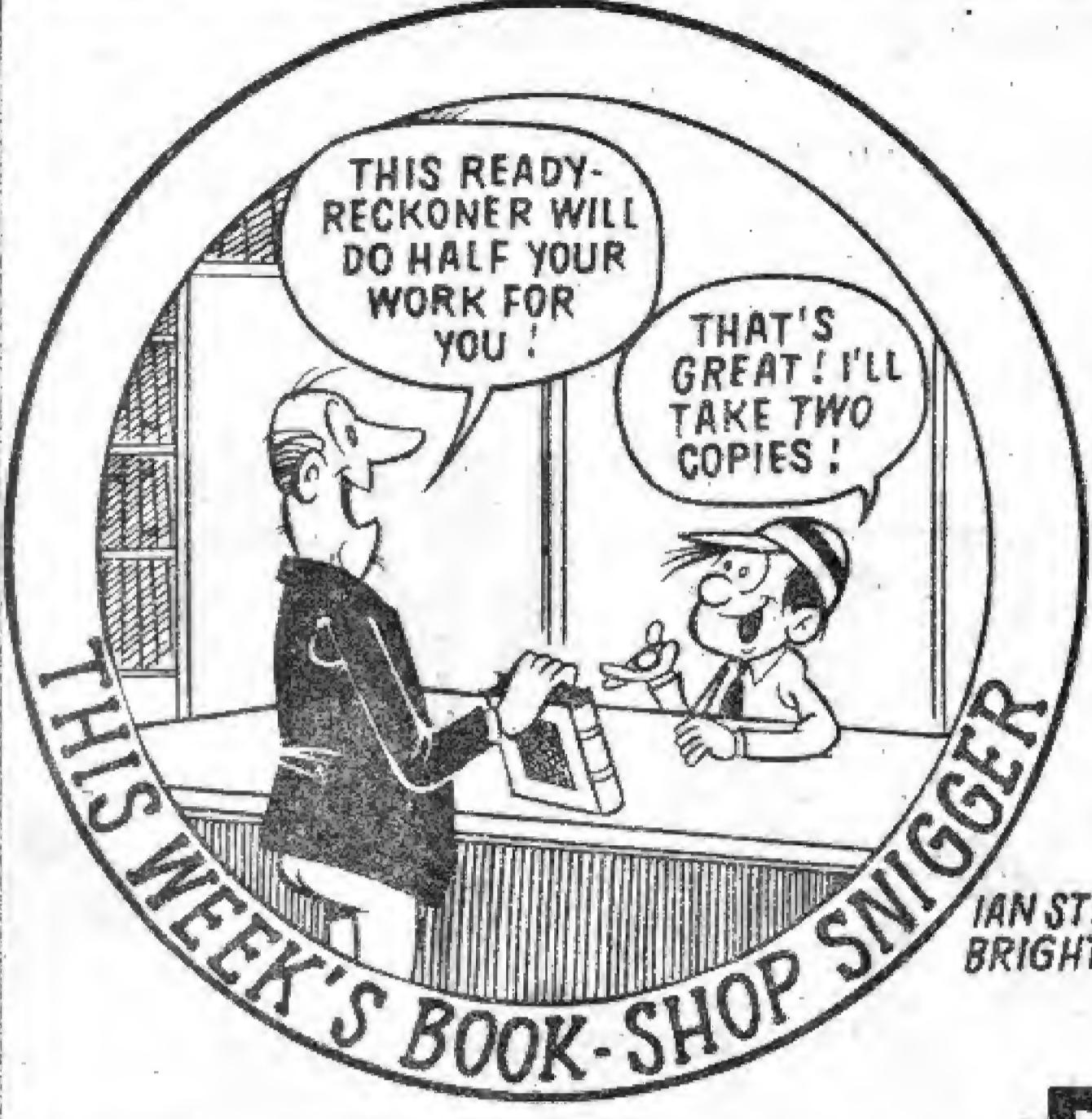
PROBLEM PIANIST!

Dear Sam,

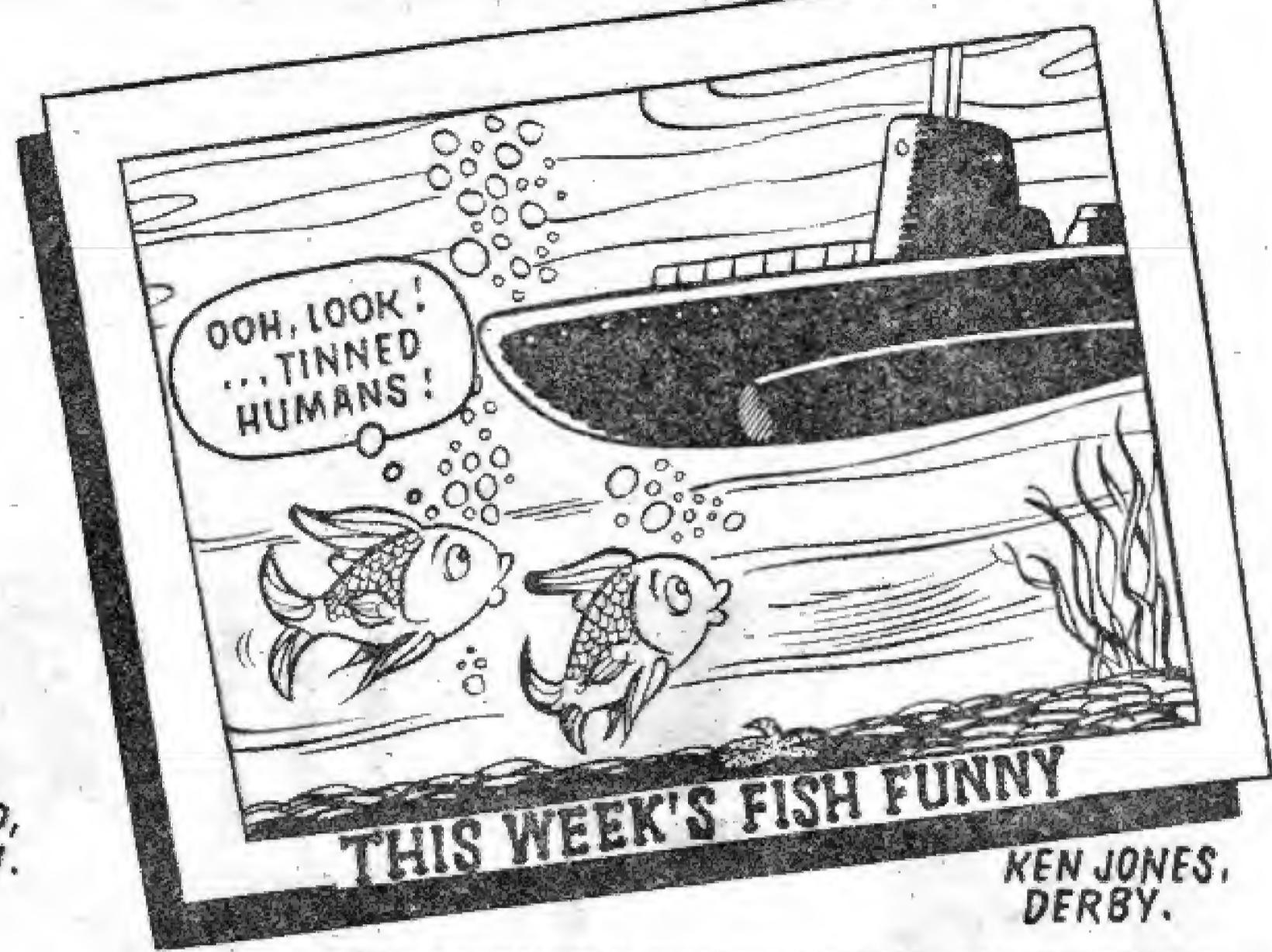
Every Tuesday and Friday I go to piano lessons. I enjoy them immensely. But all my friends think that piano lessons and music are soppy and only for girls. Can any readers help me to explain to them that music is fun ?

Peter Rowan, Eastbourne





IAN STEAD,
BRIGHTON.



KEN JONES,
DERBY.



JOHN BURNS,
LONDON.

SAM PICKS HIS TOP GAGS

£1 for any jokes that I think our artist would like to draw. Roll 'em in, pals! Let's make Sam's Spot a real cracker!



RAY DAVIS,
ELTHAM.



MARK SMITH,
DARLINGTON.



DES SKINN,
GLASGOW.

THE ONLY BULLET-PROOF WARRIOR OF WORLD WAR II!

STEEL COMMANDO

DURING WORLD WAR II, LANCE-CORPORAL ERNIE 'EXCUSED-BOOTS' BATES WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF A SECRET WEAPON CALLED THE STEEL COMMANDO, BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY MAN IN THE BRITISH ARMY THE ROBOT WOULD OBEY! IN CAMP, ONE COLD EVENING —



THERE'S NO HEAT COMING FROM THE STOVE. IT MUST BE BUNGED-UP. GIVE IT A RAKE, YES, ERNIE...

STOP! I SAID A RAKE, NOT A SHAKE!

BRRRR! IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU, IRONSIDES... YOU DON'T FEEL THE COLD! BUT I'M PERISHED!

YOU'LL SET THE HUT ON FIRE!

NOT THIS TIME, SIR! MAJOR BATES IS WANTED IN THE C.O.'S OFFICE... ON THE DOUBLE! SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER SPECIAL MISSION FOR THE STEEL COMMANDO!

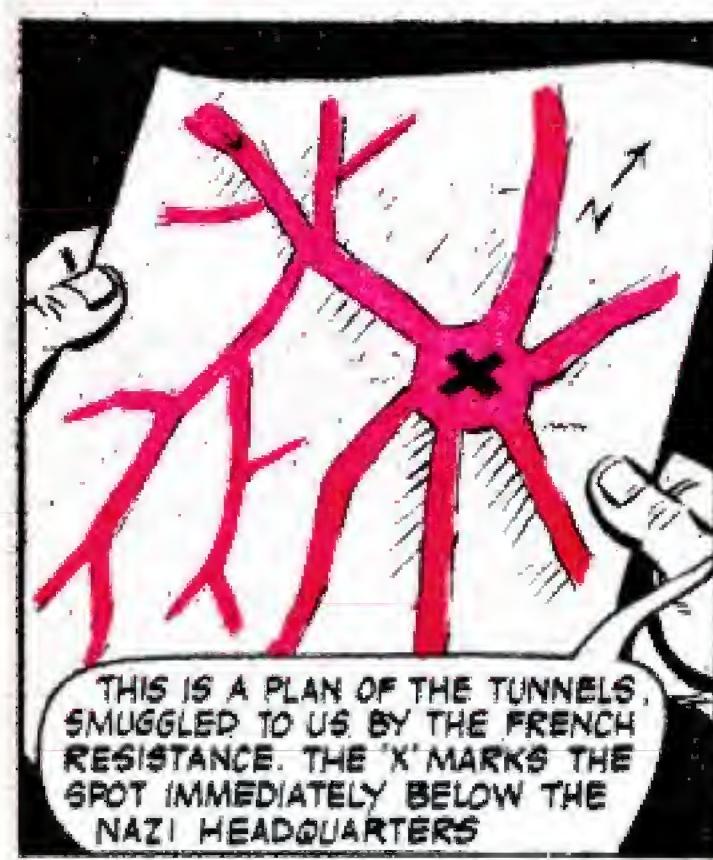
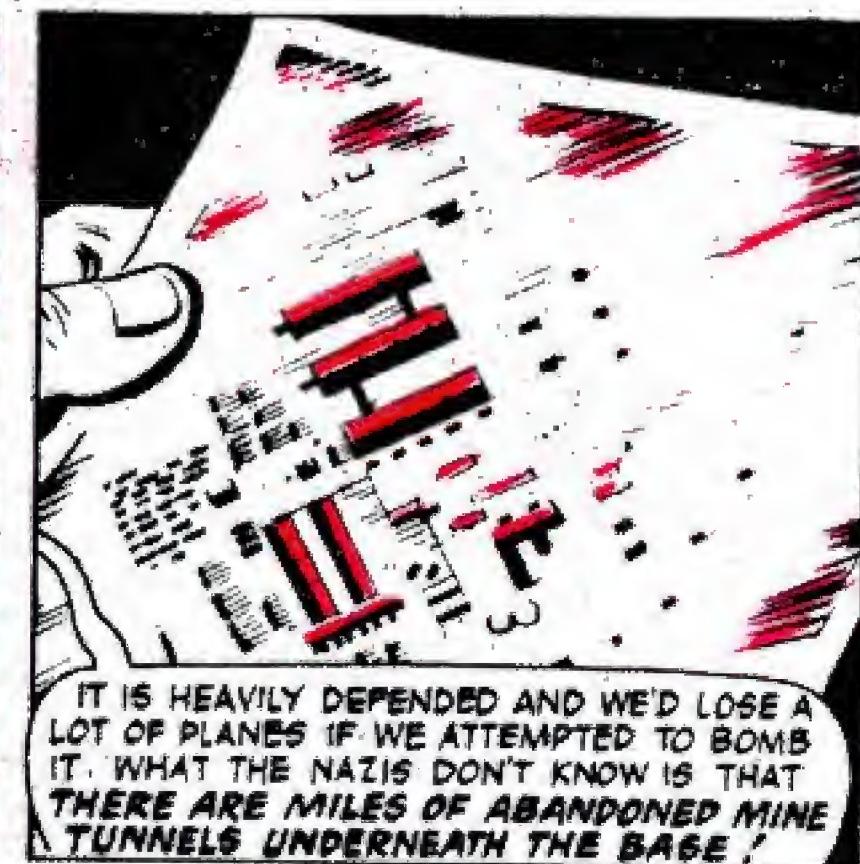


WHAT'S ALL THIS THEN, BATES? SETTING FIRE TO ARMY PROPERTY, EH? I'LL HAVE YOU AND THAT METAL MONSTER ON JANKERS!



HERE WE GO AGAIN, MATE.

Dragon's blood' is a substance obtained from a cherry-like fruit.



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The longest alphabet in the world is the Cambodian, with 74 letters.



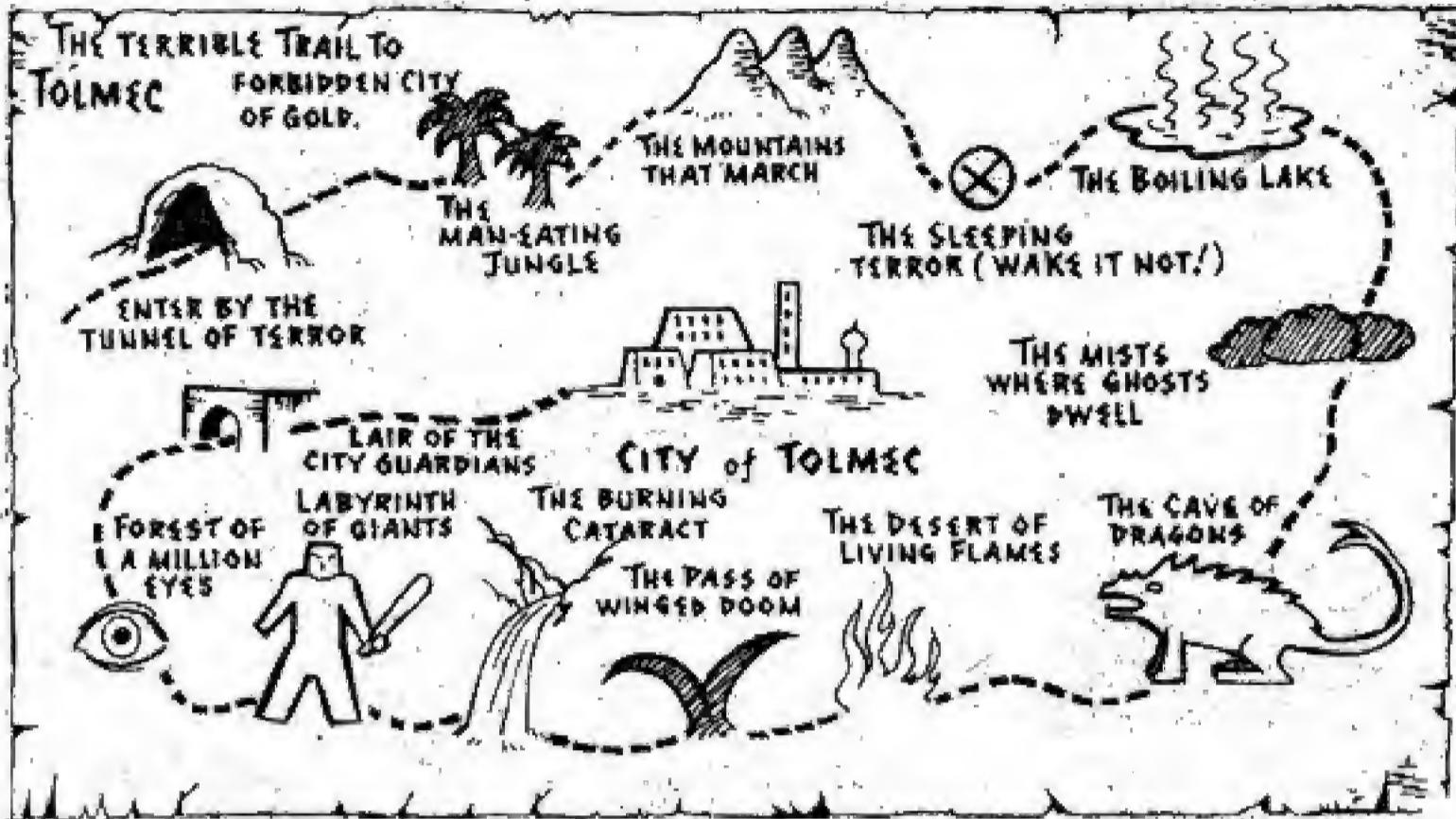
During a volcanic eruption in Barbados, red-hot ashes turned day into night.



MORE FUN NEXT WEEK!

A TERRIFIC THUNDER-STORM DROVE TOM & CO. INTO DEADLY PERIL!

THE TERRIBLE TRAIL TO TOLMEC



DOCTOR WOLFGANG STRANGER, WHO CONSIDERED HIMSELF THE GREATEST EXPLORER IN THE WORLD, AND HIS GIGANTIC MANSERVANT, TROLL, HAD AGREED TO GO WITH TOM TAYLOR ON THE TERRIBLE TRAIL TO TOLMEC, THE FORBIDDEN CITY OF GOLD, WHERE TOM BELIEVED THEY WOULD FIND HIS FATHER. AFTER OVERCOMING MANY EERIE PERILS THEY APPROACHED THE NEXT POINT MARKED ON TOM'S MAP... THE CAVE OF DRAGONS!



The world's greatest swindler was Ivar Kreuger, who forged £28,700,000 bonds.

I WOULD NOT HAVE BECOME THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPLORER IF I HAD LEFT THINGS TO CHANCE, TOM! YOU AND I WILL SEARCH FURTHER! TROLL WILL STAY AND GUARD THE STORES!

TOM WAS UNEASY AT LETTING TROLL OUT OF HIS SIGHT...

I DON'T TRUST TROLL! I'M SURE HE DOESN'T MEAN US EVER TO REACH THE CITY OF GOLD! BUT STRANGER WON'T HEAR A WORD AGAINST HIM!

DOCTOR STRANGER UTTERED A SUDDEN EXCLAMATION OF EXCITEMENT AND ALARM!

TOM—LOOK!

THEY CREEP FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY...

WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO EXCITE THEM! THEY LOOK AS IF THEY COULD SWALLOW US IN ONE MOUTHFUL!

THAT'S FUNNY—NONE OF THEM ARE MOVING!

TOM SUDDENLY DASHED FORWARD...

TOM! TAKE CARE!

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR!

DOCTOR STRANGER WAS AMAZED...

INCREDIBLE! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES! AND ONLY A SCULPTOR OF SHEER GENIUS COULD HAVE CARVED SUCH MAGNIFICENT BEASTS OUT OF THE ROCK!

TOM AND STRANGER RETURNED TO THE REST OF THE PARTY, WHERE A MEAL WAS BEING PREPARED...

THERE'S JUST TIME BEFORE WE EAT TO GET SOME FLASHLIGHT PICTURES OF THOSE DRAGONS!

AS HE TOOK HIS PICTURES, TOM NOTICED THAT ONE OF THE PACK ANIMALS HAD FOLLOWED A PORTER WHO HAD COME TO THE POOL FOR DRINKING WATER...

I'LL TRY TO GET THE PONY IN THE NEXT ONE!

TOM FELT SUDDENLY UNEASY...

THAT'S FUNNY! IT HASN'T MOVED, AND... AND IT'S CHANGING COLOUR!

SO FAR, ALL THE PLACES ON MY MAP HAVE CONTAINED A HIDDEN DANGER! WHERE'S THE CATCH IN THIS ONE?

HECK! IT'S TURNED TO STONE—JUST LIKE THE DRAGONS!

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

The world's fastest fish is the Atlantic sailfish, which swims at 70 MPH.

TOM SUDDENLY SAW TROLL PEERING AT HIM WITH A CUNNING LEER...



TROLL SUDDENLY FLUNG HIMSELF AT TOM...



TOM TWISTED OUT OF THE WAY IN THE NICK OF TIME...



HELP! HELP!



TOM WAS IN THE NICK OF TIME...



WHAT HAPPENED TO TROLL?
HE'S SOAKING WET!

I ACCIDENTALLY F-FELL INTO THE POOL!
...UUUUUHH!



A HAMMER AND CHISEL, QUICK! HIS CLOTHES ARE PETRIFYING! IF WE DON'T GET HIM OUT BEFORE THEY TURN TO STONE, HE'LL BE TRAPPED INSIDE FOR EVER!



ONE MORE GOOD HEAVE SHOULD DO IT!



MOST REMARKABLE! ONE MORE STRANGE STONE FIGURE FOR FUTURE VISITORS TO PUZZLE OVER!

MEANWHILE, WE PRESS ON TO THE NEXT PERIL—"THE DESERT OF LIVING FLAMES"!

MORE THRILLS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THUNDER"!

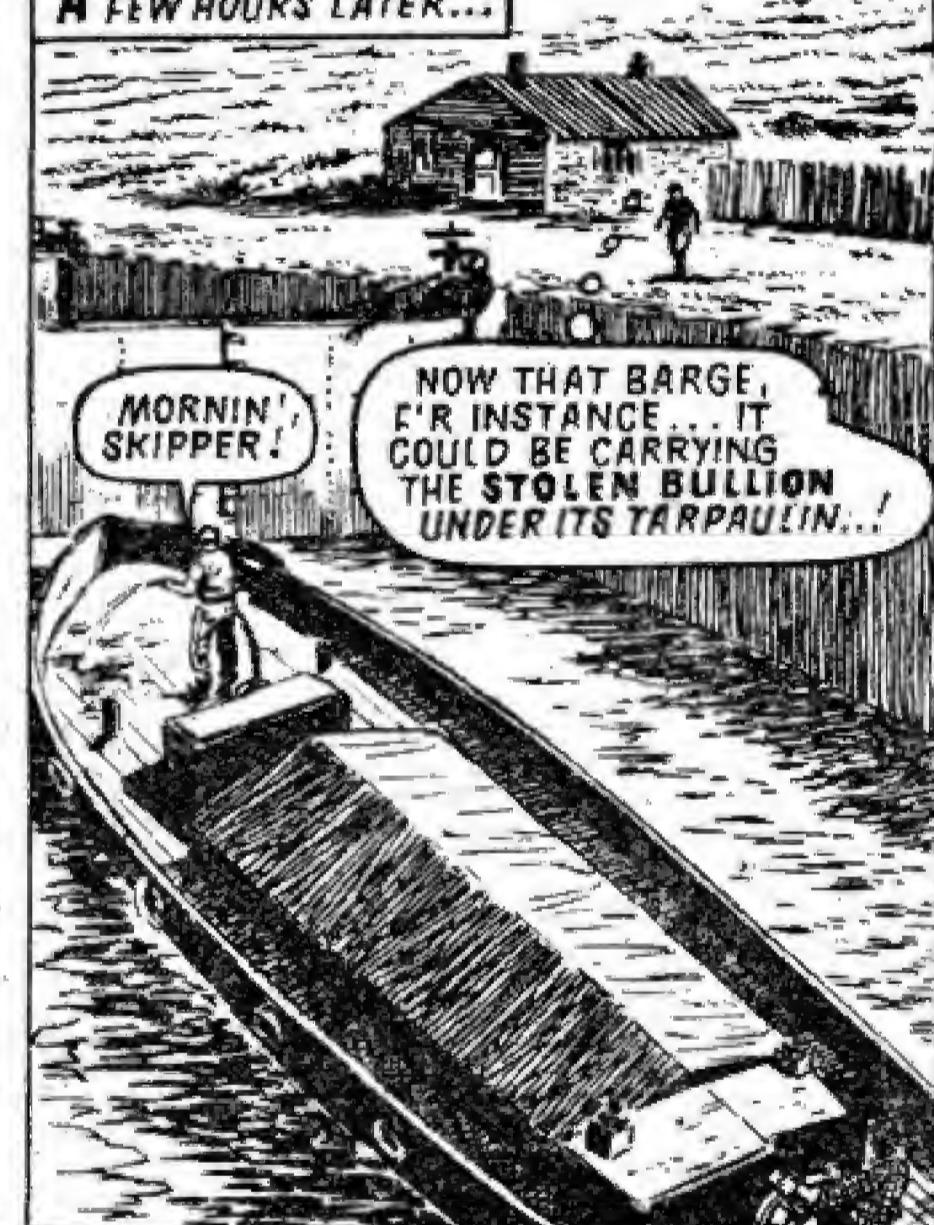
JUSTICE WAS THE GLOVE'S ONLY TARGET!

GAUNTLET OF FATE



A STRANGE OLD GAUNTLET WHICH HAD ONCE BELONGED TO A MEDIEVAL LAW-MAKER HAD BEEN DUG OUT OF ITS CENTURIES-OLD HIDING PLACE. THE GAUNTLET BROUGHT JUSTICE TO ALL WHO WORE IT ON THEIR HAND, THE WICKED OR THE GOOD. IT WAS FLUNG AWAY BY A MISERLY ANTIQUE DEALER WHO HAD BEEN PUNISHED BY IT, AND FELL INTO THE BACK OF A PASSING VAN. THE VAN CARRIED THE GAUNTLET OF FATE TO AN ISOLATED LOCK ON AN ESSEX CANAL...

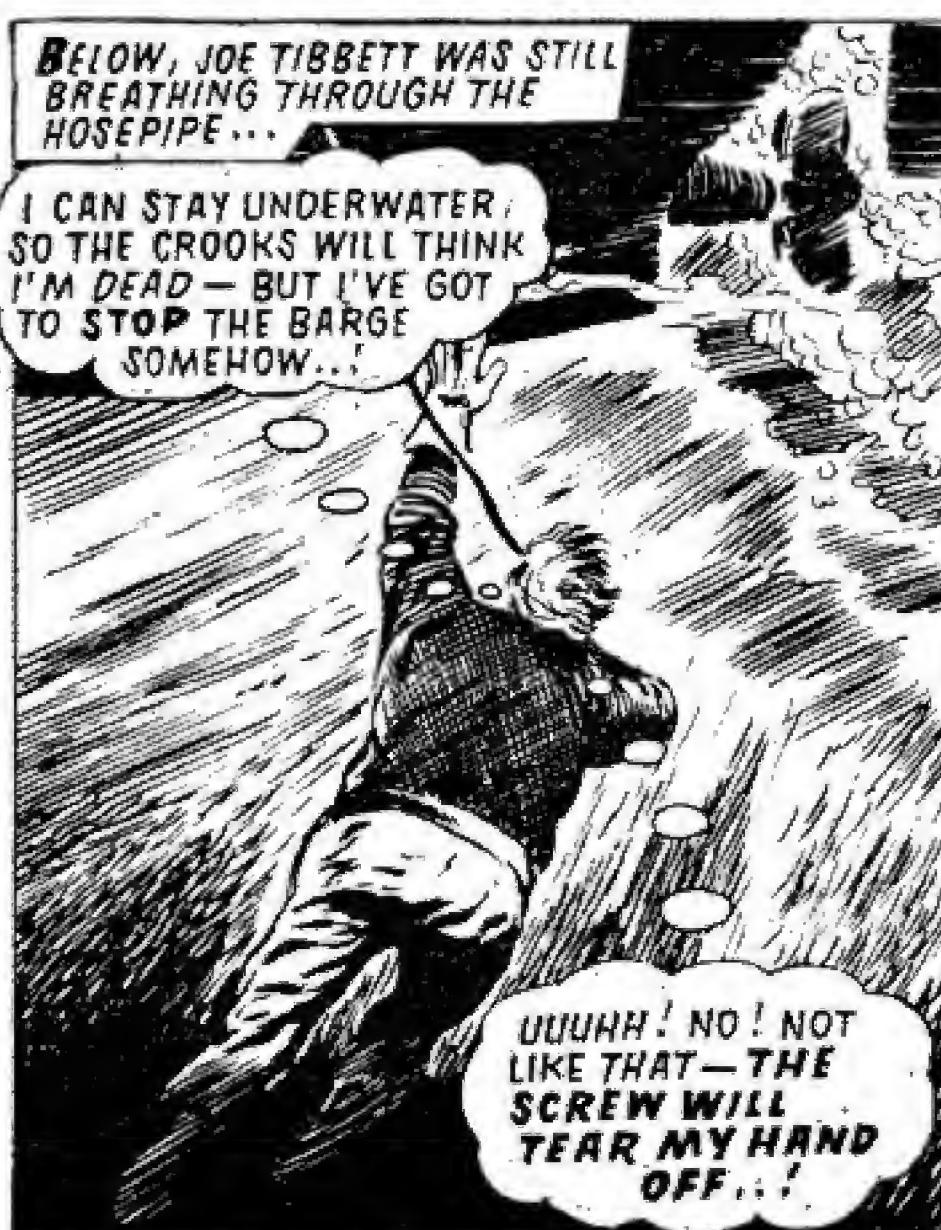
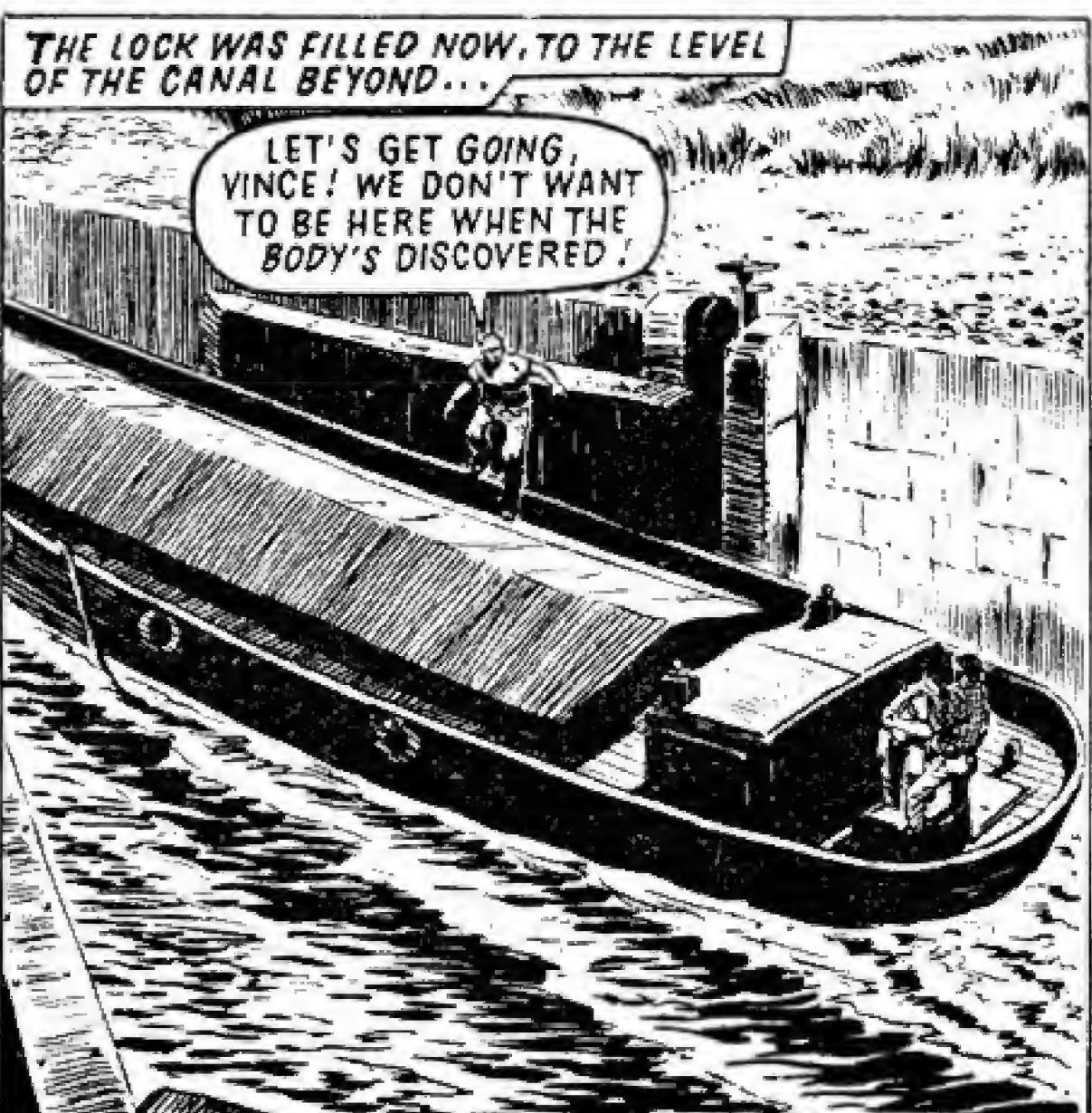
UNSEEN BY THE LOCK-KEEPER, JOE TIBBETT, THE GAUNTLET SCUTTLED TOWARDS THE LOCK-GATE...



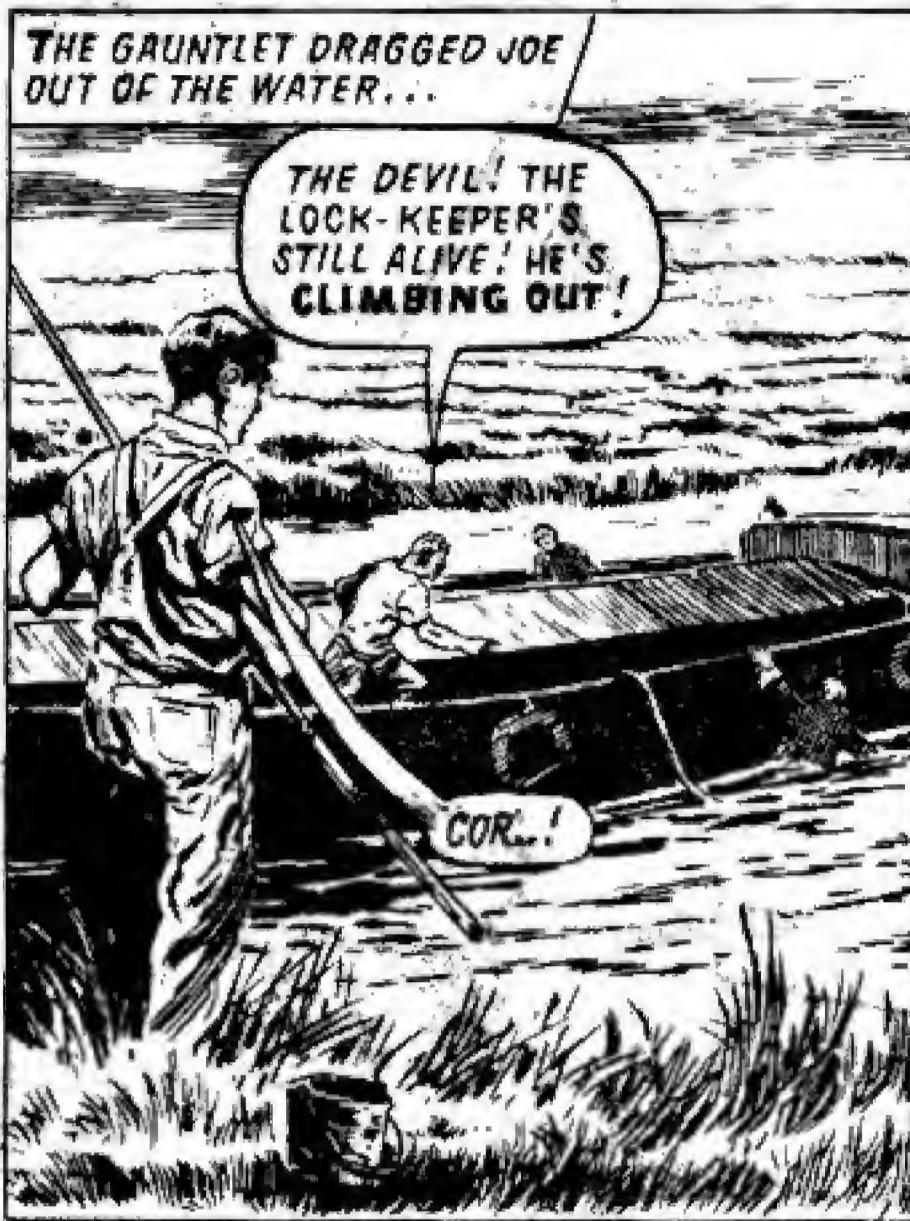
JOE THOUGHT HE WAS REACHING FOR HIS OWN GLOVE - BUT THE GAUNTLET OF FATE HAD TAKEN THE GLOVE'S PLACE...



The Scottish island of Iona was originally called 'I'.



An Austrian in 1900 walked 870 miles from Vienna to Paris on his hands.



LOOK OUT, SAM — HERE COMES BULLY BATES!

SAM

